

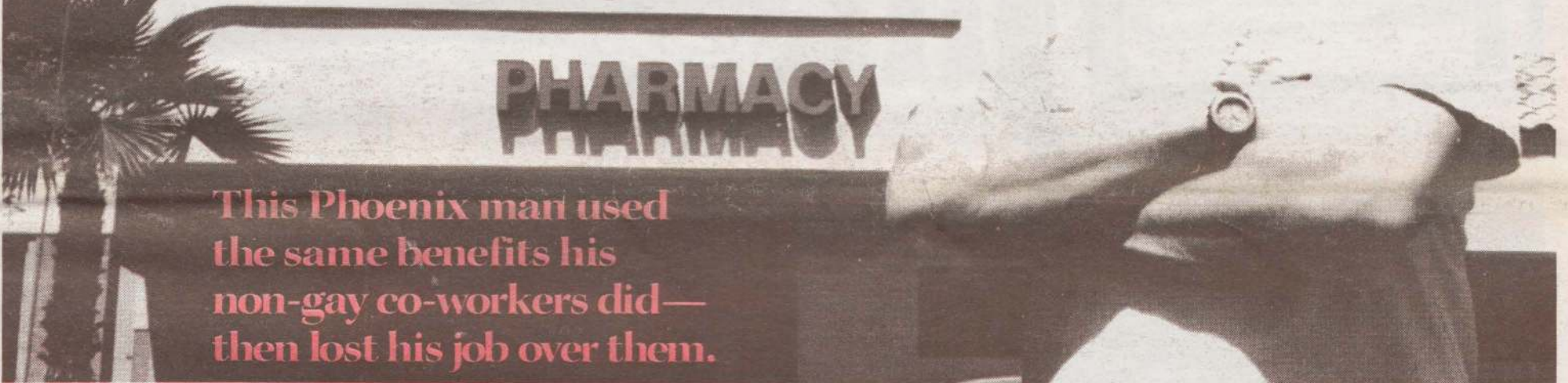
HeatStroke

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June 4 — 17, 1998

Not Hetero & Not Equal Walgreens



This Phoenix man used the same benefits his non-gay co-workers did—then lost his job over them.

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

For five years William Bowen worked for a huge American company, a profitable retail chain with an ever-expanding presence in the Valley.

Bowen was better than just efficient. He was great with customers, knew his high-pressure job backward and forward, liked his co-workers and showed up for his shifts on time.

But last month he was suddenly fired—terminated for committing what his former employer has called insurance fraud.

On May 20 he was told to clear out of his workplace, the One Hour Photo department inside the Walgreens drugstore at Osborn and Central in Phoenix.

He was also informed that Walgreens, which reported a corporate profit of \$436 million in 1997, might even sue him for \$5,200—money that the company spent on his lover's prescription drugs last year.

All, he says, because he is a gay man who stood up for his belief in the adage, equal pay for equal work.

"I just want the same basic rights as everyone else," he told *HeatStroke* a few days after his employment with the chain ended.

His partner of six years had no health insurance

Bowen, 37, is HIV-positive. So is Larry Pecka, the man he lives with and loves.

Last year Pecka, then self employed, was having difficulty obtaining health insurance. So Bowen turned to the health benefits policy that Walgreens offers its full-time employees through Aetna Healthplan of Arizona.

Bowen realized he could help cover the cost of his partner's medications by listing Pecka as his dependent and by paying a slightly higher health insurance premium in order to cover them both.

Opposite-sex couples are entitled to do that, he reasoned. So why should he and Pecka be any different?

In August of 1997 Bowen signed up Pecka as his dependent. Walgreens accepted the application and began deducting the cost of the additional coverage from Bowen's paychecks.

Bowen said he had no idea that adding an unmarried partner to his health insurance was against company policy and, technically, illegal. "There is nothing clear anywhere that says that you can't do it," Bowen said.

He wanted nothing more than the rights and benefits due any heterosexual American citizen. "The rights to pursue happiness, freedom, all these things that we are guaranteed in the constitution. That's what I wanted, too."

The 1997 Personalized Benefits Statement booklet that Walgreens issued to Bowen clearly shows both he "and one dependent" were covered by Aetna Healthplan of Arizona.

Until he was fired, Bowen filled the prescriptions for the numerous HIV meds he and Pecka require each month at the pharmacy in the very store where he worked. The pharmacists knew the meds were for his male lover, as did everyone in the store. He is completely out of the closet and was not trying to do anything underhanded, he said.

His health quickly improved and so did his job performance. "They can testify at work that my attendance is up. My work habits have improved because I'm not worried about my other half and I'm not staying at home on suicide watch with him."

Bowen said he didn't consider that he was doing something proactive on behalf of gay employment rights. He

Bowen said he had no idea that adding an unmarried partner to his health insurance was against company policy and, technically, illegal.

only wanted to find the best way to cover Pecka's health needs.

"He was self-employed. He had no medical benefits." Pecka became depressed, even tried to commit suicide because the men couldn't afford to pay for his drugs.

"So I put him on my health insurance. And his health has gotten better, because now the drugs are paid for."

For a while, the added coverage worked great for both men. Until that afternoon in May when Bowen was called away from his duties at the in-store photo shop by Bill Miller, Director of Loss Prevention for Walgreens' regional offices in north Phoenix.

The Company investigated Bowen's change of beneficiary

Miller took Bowen into a back room and gave him the news.

The executive, Bowen said, showed him a copy of the Request for Change of Beneficiary form he had filled out a couple of months before.

He asked Bowen if he remembered signing it.

"I said, 'yes.'"

Bowen had recently decided to make Pecka, the man he refers to in conversations as his other half, the beneficiary of a life insurance policy he had through Walgreens.

He'd listed his nephews as beneficiaries when he started working for the retailer in 1993 but wanted to change the policy to reflect his serious commitment to his six-year relation-

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Horowitz:

The conscience of a liberal

I was in St. Louis on a business trip when I heard that Barry Goldwater died. I never imagined that I would be so emotionally affected by the death of an activist conservative Republican.

Years ago, when it was politically correct to do so, I labeled myself a fiscal conservative and a social liberal. Like most self-identified conservatives today, I didn't have a clue what I was talking about.

Goldwater is widely known as the father of modern conservatism—the Republican candidate who took on Lyndon Johnson in an unwinnable presidential campaign and paved the way for Ronald Reagan to get elected years later.

Far-right wing Christian leaders, including Phyllis

Years ago, when it was politically correct to do so, I labeled myself a fiscal conservative and a social liberal. Like most self-identified conservatives today, I didn't have a clue what I was talking about.

Schlafly, often credit Goldwater for helping them take back the White House, Congress and the country.

Barry Goldwater stands as such an icon that both presidential candidates in the last election took the time to visit him during their brief visits to Arizona.

Today, however, they also sing a different tune.

Barry Goldwater championed the cause of gay and lesbian civil rights for years. Back in 1991, when we were fighting to get "sexual orientation" added to the City of Phoenix Human Rights Ordinance as a protected class, he stood with us.

He held a press conference declaring his unconditional support. He explained that "the Conservative Movement is based on the tenet that every person has the right to be left alone, as long as he doesn't hurt anyone else. No one has ever shown me how being gay or lesbian hurts other people." He instantly became our hero and a thorn in the side of the religious right.

Goldwater also took on the far-right establishment over the gays in the military issue. He very publicly urged Congress and the military to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly. Barry came out with the now famous anthem: "You don't need to be straight to serve in the military; you just need to shoot straight."

Barry always said what he thought, and he always stood by what he said. He advocated the kind of conservatism that I wish Arizona was famous for, instead of the bigoted, intolerant brand of conservatism that leaders like Mechem, Symington and Groskost embody.

The newspapers in St. Louis covering his death had right-wing leaders declaring Goldwater's support of gays and lesbians a result of senility and

Alzheimer's disease. There's actually a protest scheduled for his funeral service by picketers intending to vilify Goldwater for standing up for gays and lesbians and not declaring homosexuality a sin.

Barry would be proud. He'd probably laugh himself silly. I hope that those of us in attendance at his memorial service will simply ignore the protesters and remember the great man who stood by his personal convictions. I'll remember the kind and generous spirit who above and beyond all else stood by his family—his openly gay grandson, in particular. The protesters will look ridiculous.

When I got my invitation to this year's Arizona Human Rights Fund Dinner being held at the Arizona Biltmore on June 13th, I noticed that the invitation comes from Mary Berkheiser, Arizona Human Rights Fund chair, The Board of Directors of the Arizona Human Rights Fund, and The Honorable Barry Goldwater and Susan Goldwater.

The dinner itself and the Barry Goldwater National Award to honor individual and corporate advocates who have persistently worked to ensure human rights and equality for all people will serve as the most fitting tribute that I can imagine for this great leader. Tickets are \$135, and limited spaces at the dinner may still be available. Contact AHRF for more information

at 650-0900.

This year's recipients of the Barry Goldwater award are The Honorable Sheila James Kuehl, openly lesbian California Assemblywoman and former star of the '60s sitcom *Dobie Gillis*, and US West, a corporation widely known for its gay friendly policies and working environment.

Local recipients of the Arizona Human Rights Award are Bill Orovan, Publisher of *Echo Magazine*, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and Marc Kellenberger, whose amazing dedication carried this year's AIDS Walk to new heights.

Echo magazine has provided a community voice and a community face for many years, and Bill and the staff at *Echo* consistently offer their time, talent and money to better our community. Congratulations to all the award winners.

Barry, we'll miss you.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and President of the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project

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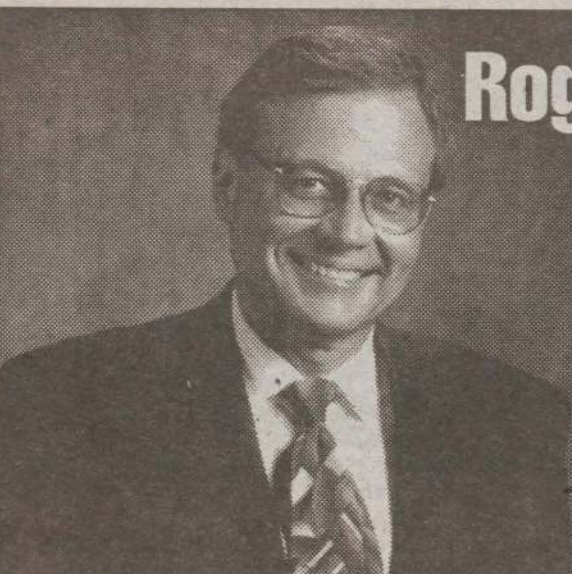





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Assault, murder in Kingman

"Nice" merchants found beaten, one shot to death

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

One man was killed and his business partner nearly beaten to death in a gruesome attack in Kingman May 22. Authorities are investigating whether antigay bias may have played a part in the crimes.

All police really know is that William Schanz, 52, and Ronald Hilbert, 64, were found bound and bloody at about 1 pm at the business they owned together, the Chief Trading Post on Highway 93 in Kingman.

The couple was discovered by a Kingman postal carrier who reportedly heard a groan as she dropped off their mail that afternoon. She then reportedly looked behind a counter and saw both men tied up separately. They were bloody and unconscious.

Schanz, who had been shot, was pronounced dead shortly afterward and Hilbert was transported via chopper to Phoenix where he was admitted to a local hospital with bludgeoning injuries shortly before 7 pm.

Dean Brice, a lieutenant with the Kingman Police, told *HeatStroke* that the department only has investigative leads and police are still trying to learn more about the merchants' backgrounds.

"The brother of the deceased was here visiting them and so we have been speaking to him, trying to find out as much as we can," Brice said.

When Kingman's *Mohave Valley Daily News* broke the story on Sunday, May 24, the newspaper avoided any discussion of the victims' sexuality.

Brice, however, said his department was aware of the victims' sexual orientation. "That is something we had heard. People have said that yes, they were gay. Although they

were not particularly open. They certainly didn't broadcast it."

Hilbert is now in a Phoenix neurological ward, having first spent more than a week in a trauma center. He lies in a coma after suffering a severe head laceration.

As of press time, the man's condition remains critical. A hospital caregiver said a period of coma is common for his type of head injury and that it is possible Hilbert could recover and be able to remember what happened.

Until that happens, police have little to go on.

Brice did say there was nothing to indicate that there was more than one assailant. "At this point all we can really say is that it happened," he said. Asked whether the department knew of a possible motive for the crimes, Brice said, "No. Nothing."

Kingman Police Detective Bob Fisk told *HeatStroke* that the Chief Trading Post, formerly known as Archie's Bunker, did not appear to have been robbed during the attack.

"With a store, it's hard to say for sure until we can inventory everything. But we don't believe robbery was involved," Fisk said.

Lt. Brice said the police simply do not have enough information at this point to characterize the assault as a gay hate crime, or to know if antigay bias may have played a part.

"We are looking into that possibility. We have done some asking around, trying to see if there was some kind of threat or someone might have overheard [the victims] mention something like that."

Brice said the pair was well-liked. "Everyone who knew them seems to think they were very nice."



AHRF to honor Kuehl, US West & others at annual event

More than 35 years ago, she was known all across America for her portrayal of the irrepressible Zelda Gilroy in the television series *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*.

Today, Sheila James Kuehl is best known as the first openly gay person to be elected to the California Legislature, where she represents that state's 41st Assembly District in Los Angeles County.

Kuehl will be honored with the Barry Goldwater National Award at the Arizona Human Rights Fund Awards Dinner on Saturday, June 13 at the Arizona Biltmore.

Also receiving the Goldwater Award for its service as a corpora-

tion is US West. The Arizona Human Rights Award will be given to Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; local activist Marc Kallenberger; and *Echo* magazine, a Phoenix-based publication for gays and lesbians.

The event will be emceed by writer and TV personality Jana Bommersbach and will feature the music of Pazport. More than 700 people attended the 1997 AHRF awards dinner and organizers say the event seems to grow every year.

Tickets for the gala fund-raiser are \$135 each and can be ordered by calling (602) 650-0900.

Did Mr. Conservative turn liberal?

Barry Goldwater's friends don't think so

PHOENIX (AP)

Republicans remember Barry Goldwater fondly as "Mr. Conservative," the iconoclastic icon who fathered the movement that made the Reagan administration possible.

But especially in his later years, Goldwater angered and alienated some of the GOP's most conservative members on such issues as abortion, gay rights and the medical use of marijuana. In the late 1980s, he complained the Republican Party had been taken over by "a bunch of kooks," referring to televangelist Pat Robertson and former Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham.

He even endorsed Democrat Karan English in her successful run for Congress in 1992.

"That raised a lot of eyebrows," Mecham said Friday. "I didn't talk to him about that, though. He could do what he wanted."

Was Barry Goldwater turning into a mushy-headed liberal in his old age? His friends and supporters don't think so. Goldwater wanted government out of people's lives—including their private lives, they said.

"It wasn't that he left the conservatives, it was that the religious right kidnapped our conservative beliefs," said Republican state Rep. Freddy Herschberger of Tucson, a former Goldwater aide.

"When it came to politics, he almost always was a libertarian," said Arizona Republican Party Chairman Mike Hellon, who sided with

Goldwater in feuds with social conservatives in the GOP. "He didn't like government interference in '64 and he didn't like it in '94."

Goldwater once explained it himself: "I don't like being called the New Right; I'm an old, old son-of-a-bitch. I'm a conservative."

It was his trademark salty style that added more sting to his views.

"He just said what he felt," said grandson Ty Ross of Tucson. "He said once that maybe he wasn't that good a politician, but he was honest."

Goldwater's support for Ross' gay activism also drew the ire of some religious conservatives, especially when Goldwater, an Air Force veteran of World War II, called the ban on gays in the military "dumb."

"You don't need to be straight to fight and die for your country. You just need to shoot straight," he said in 1993.

When Moral Majority founder the Rev. Jerry Falwell suggested in 1981 that good Christians should be concerned about the appointment of Arizonan Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court, Goldwater replied: "I think every good Christian ought to kick Falwell right in the ass."

"The party people would say he's senile, but it was because he was saying things they didn't like," said friend and former Goldwater campaign pollster Bruce Merrill.

In the 1990s, Goldwater was honored by such arch-enemies of the religious right as the American Civil

Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood and the Arizona Human Rights Fund, a gay and lesbian rights group. Some GOP conservatives, meanwhile, were so upset they talked of taking his name off of the state Republican headquarters building.

The controversy died down, Hellon says, in large part because most Republicans do not agree with the minority who found fault with Goldwater. Many politicians, whether they agreed with Goldwater or not, admired his willingness to speak his mind.

Clinton signs Executive Order barring job bias against gays

WASHINGTON (AP)

An executive order signed by President Clinton protects homosexual federal workers from job discrimination.

"Individuals should not be denied a job on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work," Clinton said in a statement accompanying the order May 28.

Gay and lesbian political activists heralded the move, which adds sexual orientation to the list of categories for which discrimination is illegal. The others are race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicaps and age.

Previously, the Clinton administration had instituted the policy agency-

"What I loved most about Barry was that he didn't give a damn what others thought," said former Republican Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada. "He was going to speak his mind as long as it involved something in which he believed strongly."

"The core, basic issues he was conservative on ... he was certainly a fiscal conservative," Mecham said.

"He articulated the conservative philosophy when it wasn't popular and deserves some of the credit for making it popular."

by-agency. Thursday's action ensures a uniform policy for civilian workers throughout the federal government.

"Since early in President Clinton's first term, most Cabinet-level departments and agencies have added sexual orientation to their equal employment policies, but these policies were not uniformly administered," said Kim Mills, education director for the Human Rights Campaign. "This executive order will remedy that situation."

Clinton, in his statement, added a pitch to Congress to pass a long-pending bill to extend protection from job discrimination to all American workers in both the public and private sectors.



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Malta's director moving to Las Vegas

Father Joseph O'Brien, a Catholic priest who served as executive director of one of the Valley's long-established AIDS/HIV service agencies, is leaving the Valley to head a similar service organization in Las Vegas, Nevada.

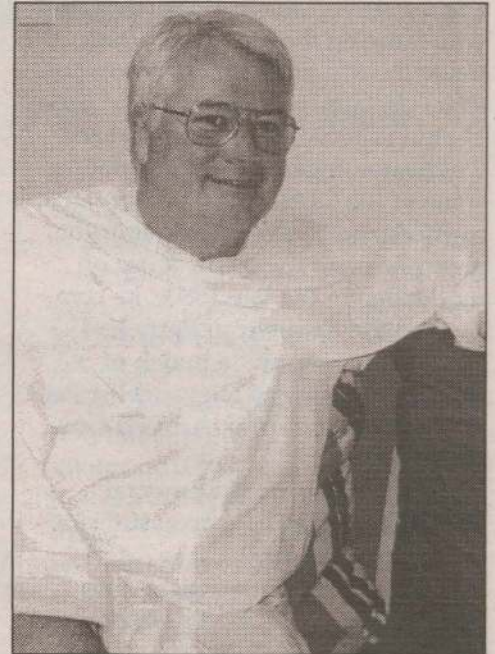
O'Brien, known to his friends and associates as "Father Joe", was a part of Phoenix's Malta Center since the early '90s, having served on the board of directors, as director of volunteers and most recently as the executive director.

The 10-yr-old agency is sponsored by the Phoenix Diocese of the Catholic church and funded by the Knights of Malta and other charitable agencies and individuals throughout the Valley. O'Brien has more than 15 years of experience working with the HIV community in Orange County, Phoenix, San Francisco and now Las Vegas.

In the June, 1998 edition of the Malta Center's newsletter, O'Brien wrote: "I have been very lucky. I have found a real treasure in my involvement with the HIV community. Even though the work is at times difficult and extremely demanding it ceases to be a mere job. It becomes a task freely chosen and done with love."

The priest pointed out in his good-bye message that the Phoenix Diocese is 28 years old and has administered the Malta Center for 10 years. The Diocese of Las Vegas is just three years old and had already extended the invitation to minister and provide service to the HIV community.

The new HIV organization that O'Brien has been tapped to help estab-



lish and head is called St. Therese Center. The center is based in Henderson, just southeast of Las Vegas.

"I am saddened to leave the Malta Center," O'Brien wrote. "I am also thrilled to be able to work in an area in which I can devote my heart and soul. The members of the HIV community and their journeys continue to give new meaning and inspiration to my work and life."

"Father Joe has been a dynamic and compassionate leader of the Malta Center for a number of years," said Jerry Smithson, who serves as treasurer on the Malta Center's Board of Directors. "His leadership and his special, very personal touch will be missed by the board, the staff and particularly the clients."

Sexual orientation doesn't define CA congressional candidate

SAN DIEGO (AP)

Education. Crime. The environment.

Congressional candidate Christine Kehoe insists voters in California's 49th District care more about those issues than her homosexuality.

"When people understand what I am about, my sexual orientation doesn't matter," said Kehoe, a San Diego councilwoman and the only Democrat in the race. "My record shows I work for everyone."

Still, Kehoe's sexuality could make history: If elected, she would be one of the first openly lesbian candidates to be elected to national office.

Kehoe, 47, may downplay the importance, but as a flier for a recent fund-raiser proclaimed: "History is about to be made, and you can be part of it."

Kehoe is one of four lesbians running for Congress this year, as well as three gay men. That number represents the largest group of openly gay candidates to run for national office.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., did not reveal their homosexuality until after they were in office, but the other Congressional candidates disclosed their sexual orientation prior to this year's elections.

They are Wisconsin legislator Tammy Baldwin; former

Massachusetts legislator Susan Tracy; retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, who was discharged from the military in 1992 after revealing her homosexuality; and rancher and oilman Paul Barby.

It isn't that the current political climate is more friendly to gays and lesbians—it isn't friendly to anyone, said Brian Bond, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a group dedicated to getting homosexuals elected.

"These candidates are not running as gays or lesbians," Bond said. "They are candidates who happen to be gay or lesbian. They have a track record in public service, representing people on a wide range of issues, and it's only natural that they start moving up."

With the help of the Victory Fund, Kehoe has raised about \$370,000 since last year, compared to \$320,000 by her Republican challenger, two-term incumbent Brian Bilbray.

As the first openly gay member of the San Diego Council, Kehoe was initially expected by some of her colleagues to pursue a particular agenda, fellow councilwoman Valerie Stallings said.

"They were all pleasantly surprised to find she was well-rounded, with no agenda or ax to grind," said Stallings.

AIDS-fighting messages on the small screen

"Protect Yourself".

That's the message of five different public service announcements currently airing on Valley cable television stations as the result of a joint effort between six Valley groups and a national foundation.

The PSAs are the product of a unique collaboration between AIDS Project Arizona and Planned Parenthood of Central and Northern Arizona, working with Desert Production Center, the Robert Black/Ford Modeling Agency and Cox Communications.

All of the participating groups and businesses donated their services. Hardt and Junck Associates, Inc. also donated public relations and grant-writing assistance services for the project.

A national organization that funds efforts in HIV/AIDS education and awareness, Cable Positives Inc., provided \$2,500 in seed funding to pay for direct costs of the project, such as videotape reproduction. Everything else was donated.

The PSAs are quick-moving and creatively photographed.

APAZ conceived of the idea for the project, pulled together the participating partners, applied for the grant and managed the project.

Desert Production Center donated its studio and TV crew for the production of the PSAs. Cox Communications agreed to air the TV spots, rotating the five versions across all of Cox's cable networks in the Phoenix market.

All five were written by Joseph Feldman, director of education and counseling for Planned Parenthood, and Britta Booth, producer/director of Planned Parenthood's Positive Force Players, a group of young actors. Positive Force Players, joined by models from the Black/Ford Agency, provided the talent for the PSAs.

The theme throughout all five PSAs is the same—prevention methods can keep the viewer from contracting AIDS—but each of the ads focuses on a different sub-theme.

In one, viewers are urged to consider early intervention and informed that free AIDS testing is available. In a second, viewers are informed that the African American community is the hardest hit by AIDS.

A third PSA focuses on the need for pregnant women to "get tested" and a fourth emphasizes the array of services available through AIDS Project Arizona. The last PSA reiterates the need for protection and the availability of anonymous testing.

Off-Broadway theater agrees to produce gay play—despite death threats

NEW YORK (AP)

An off-Broadway theater reversed itself and agreed to produce a controversial play about a gay Christlike figure, despite several anonymous death threats.

"In our 25-year history, we have never censored a play nor turned a play down because of content," Lynne Meadow, Manhattan Theater Club's artistic director, said Thursday. "The only issue for us has been safety and security."

The theater had canceled the production of Terrence McNally's *Corpus Christi* in the face of anonymous threats made against the building, its audience and the playwright.

Meadow said the theater club reversed its decision May 28 after New York City Police Commissioner Howard Safir promised to ensure safety if the play was produced. Meadow would not elaborate on those measures.

At a news conference, Meadow played a tape of one of the phone calls the theater received. The raspy, possibly computer-distorted voice was difficult to understand, but Meadow read a transcript of the message, which was addressed to McNally.

"Because of you we will exterminate every member of the theater and burn the place to the ground. This is a message from National Security Movement of America," part of it said.

The group's background was not immediately clear. The theater received many protests and five specific death threats, beginning on May

11, said Barry Grove, the theater's executive producer.

Neither Meadow nor Grove would discuss the play's subject matter, which, according to accounts in the *New York Post*, deals with a Christlike young man who has sex with his disciples.

Grove said no details about the play's plot would be released beyond a description in a brochure sent to potential subscribers earlier this year.

"From modern day Corpus Christi, Texas, to ancient Jerusalem, we follow a young gay man named Joshua on his spiritual journey, and get to know the 12 disciples who choose to follow him," the brochure reads.

McNally, author of the Tony Award-winning *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Master Class*, was traveling and unavailable for comment.

"Wait for the production to be finished and on stage and, we assure you, the play will speak for itself," Grove said. "You can come and judge for yourself when the play is on stage."

Exact dates were not announced.

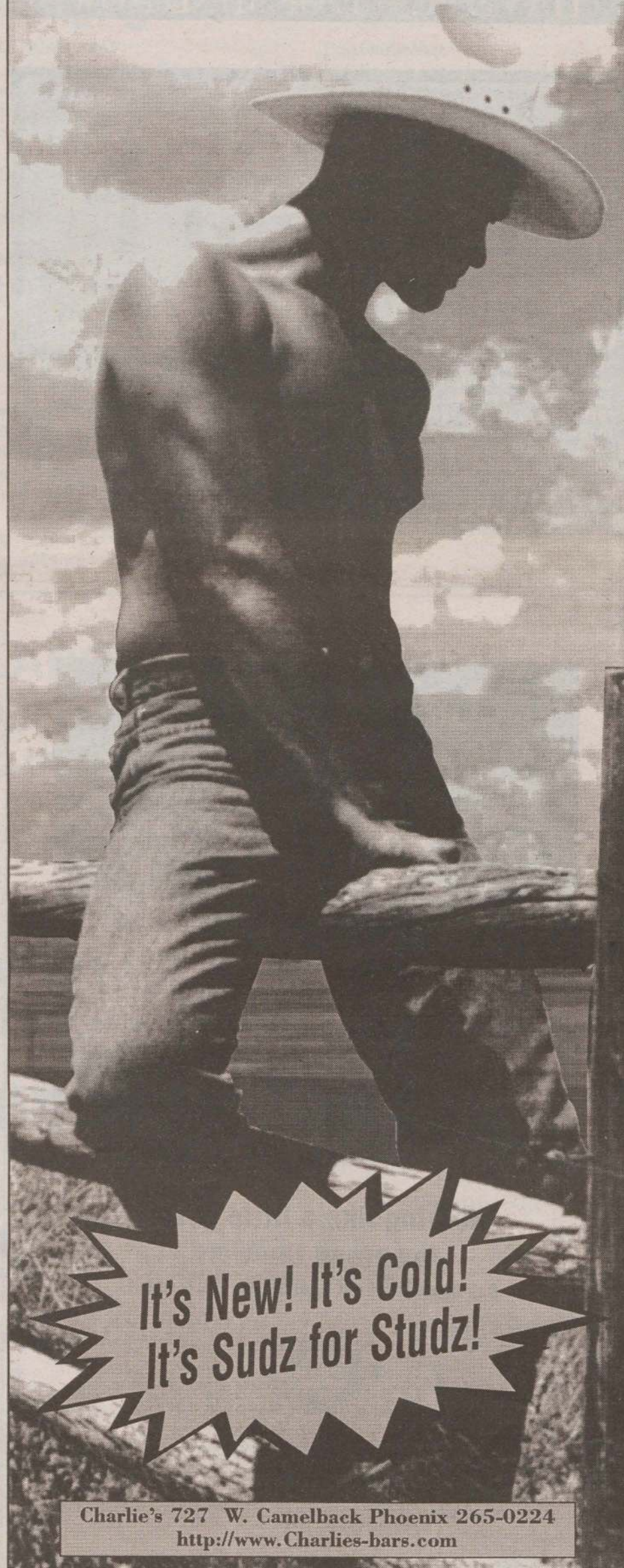
The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, which disavows violence, began a letter-writing campaign after reading the initial *Post* article.

"We will simply continue to publicly challenge their moral right to put on something that is this offensive to Christians," league spokesman Rick Hinshaw said after learning of the theater club's latest decision.

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Trinidad and Tobago to be test site for new vaccine

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Researchers in Trinidad and Tobago said they will begin injecting volunteers with an experimental AIDS vaccine that has caused controversy in Uganda, another test site for the formula.

Doctors at the Medical Research Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago said last week they will begin testing ALVAC-HIV, a vaccine developed at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, on 20 virus-free people to see if it will prompt creation of antibodies to fight the disease. Trials will begin in 2000.

Tests of the vaccine in Uganda last year were delayed after some politicians voiced unfounded worries that the formula might create another, stronger strain of the virus that causes AIDS. Opponents of the trials also accused researchers of using residents of lesser-developed countries as guinea pigs for the drug.

To avoid such problems in Trinidad and Tobago, a twin-island country off the coast of Venezuela,

researchers will launch a two-year education program before beginning the first trials, said Courtney Bartholomew, a doctor at the Medical Research Foundation.

Preliminary trials in Europe showed the vaccine is safe, Bartholomew said. Now researchers are trying to see if it is effective.

"If we embark on the vaccine trials, it will be with a safe vaccine already proven to be safe in the first world countries," Bartholomew said.

Testing will eventually take place in 11 countries, he said.

If the vaccine works, the immune systems of people injected with it would have the virus antibodies, normally the first sign of infection, but would not contract the virus. "They would be anti-body positive and virus negative," Bartholomew said.

The AIDS virus attacks humans by destroying their immune systems, making them susceptible to other illnesses. Some 43 million people worldwide are infected.

Some HIV patients resistant to newest drugs

STANFORD, Calif. (AP)

Two years after the introduction of HIV drug cocktails hailed as a miracle tool for warding off AIDS, researchers have sobering news: the invading virus is becoming resistant to all drugs.

At least half of the San Francisco Bay area AIDS patients studied were partly resistant to new therapies and 20 percent don't respond at all, according to Stanford University researchers.

"There is a problem with drug resistance, and we can't fool ourselves," said Dr. Robert Shafer of Stanford University Medical Center, the lead author of a study published today in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

The newest drugs, called protease inhibitors, have transformed the virus that causes AIDS from a death sentence to a chronic but manageable disease.

But the dramatic results may be the exception rather than the rule: after regaining weight and vigor at first, patients previously treated with HIV drugs appear to develop a resistance to all treatment, the study said.

"The hype is not the reality," said Paul Wisotzky, board chairman of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, who after 10 years of AIDS drugs is now resistant to treatment. "While I'm happy for those it works for, at the same time, I'm very aware that the situation isn't happening for me, and it isn't happening for a number of my friends."

The human immunodeficiency virus fast becomes immune to drugs

because of its rapid mutation rate. A drug may kill off most of the offspring, but those that survive spawn a new super-resilient virus.

Researchers had hoped newer and better drug combinations that attack the virus at three different sites in its life cycle might shut down the virus completely.

But for longtime patients already resistant to the drugs first used in AIDS treatment, the drug cocktails are little help. Treatment may buy them time, but the illness eventually progresses at the same pace as untreated HIV, researchers say.

They conducted genetic analyses of viral samples taken from four HIV patients who had been battling AIDS for four to nine years. Shafer then tested 11 major AIDS drugs against the viral samples over six months to determine whether the samples were susceptible to treatment.

Analyses showed they all had mutated into forms known to be resistant to 10 of the 11 approved AIDS drugs.

And a follow-up study not included in the published report showed that a fifth of the 400 Bay area AIDS patients examined carried viral strains resistant to most AIDS drugs.

Best off are the newly infected who haven't been treated, the study found. That supports recent "hit hard, hit early" recommendations that the newly infected begin triple-drug therapy at once, rather than starting with weaker drugs and then adding a protease inhibitor.

Volunteers ready to roll up sleeves to test AIDS vaccines

CHICAGO (AP)

Dr. James Sullivan has embarked on a project he knows could cost him his career, friends and romantic life.

"I'm doing this bold and wonderful thing," said the 35-year-old infectious disease specialist, who treats AIDS patients and has lost many friends to the disease.

Like hundreds of other volunteers, Sullivan is rolling up his sleeves for a series of experimental shots that are part of a broad search to develop a vaccine to prevent HIV infections. He could be injected with the protein envelope that covers the AIDS virus and a canary pox germ carrying three genes found in HIV.

"The epidemic is extremely real to me," he said. "I've seen thousands and thousands of people die."

Sullivan is among 40 people—all gay men or female partners of IV drug users—who volunteered for a federally funded vaccine study at Chicago's Howard Brown Health Center and the University of Illinois-Chicago. Hundreds of others are taking part in similar studies from New York to Nashville and Denver to San Francisco.

Volunteers often must make a two-to-five-year commitment, and get no more than \$25 a visit. The tests involve many shots and the withdrawal of pint after pint of blood to see the body's reaction.

Doctors say there is no risk of a volunteer contracting HIV from the shots—though if a volunteer is injected with HIV material instead of a placebo, he or she may have a false positive test for the virus.

"Just by participating, people

open themselves up to social stigma," says Dr. Cathy Creticos, the trial's principal co-investigator.

Sullivan, one of a handful of volunteers who've decided to go public, said the complications of a false positive test almost kept him from volunteering for the study last fall.

"Could it ruin my career?" he asked himself, knowing that a doctor who tests positive—even false positive—risks losing patients.

He also worried that, if his current five-year relationship didn't last, he wouldn't be able to convince another partner that he wasn't really HIV-positive.

"Would I be 'unmarriageable'?" he said.

Since the early 1990s, about 25 AIDS vaccines have been studied in the United States. Researchers are testing some of those for safety and immune response, with varying success rates.

One group, the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, has proposed injections of a live but weakened strain of HIV, raising the possibility of contracting AIDS. That plan is under review by the Food and Drug Administration.

No one has gotten permission from the FDA to do so-called Phase III studies, tests requiring as many as 20,000 volunteers to see if a vaccine really works. VaxGen Inc., a small California-based biotechnology company, hopes to get such approval for its vaccine this year.

In a speech last year, President Clinton called for an AIDS vaccine in the next decade, saying it could be the country's next "moon shot."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the decade goal is "still quite reasonable."

But many researchers and volunteers think the government is moving too slowly in a world where an estimated 16,000 people are infected with HIV each day. They support tests using live HIV.

"Where it has been required in the past, shortcuts have been taken and

rules have been made flexible in order to advance the greater good of humanity," said Jose Zuniga, deputy director of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care and one of the volunteers who has offered to be injected with the virus.

As for Sullivan, he said he won't know for at least a year whether he's been injected with the experimental vaccine or a placebo.

IL funeral home agrees to stop charging extra for AIDS deaths

CHICAGO (AP)

A Chicago funeral home has agreed to stop charging extra fees to families of people who die of AIDS and will pay \$3,000 in damages to one such family, the Justice Department announced.

An agreement between the government and the Vasquez Funeral Home resolved a complaint that the home violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by charging an extra fee for embalming an individual with AIDS.

"Families whose loved ones have died of AIDS should not have to face the added burden of discriminatory surcharges," Bill Lann Lee, acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, said May 29. "Funeral homes are on notice that this type of discrimination is unlawful."

The Vasquez Funeral Home agreed to appoint someone to ensure compliance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act.

The owner of the funeral home, Raymond Vasquez, refused to comment on the agreement. The home is located on Chicago's southwest side.

A complaint against the home was filed in June 1996 by family members who claimed they were charged an extra \$100 to embalm a relative who died from AIDS-related complications.

According to the Justice Department, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires funeral home workers to take precautions against disease when embalming all human remains, making any extra charges unnecessary.

The Justice Department said this is the second such settlement regarding the embalming of individuals who died of AIDS-related complications, and it is pursuing several other complaints.



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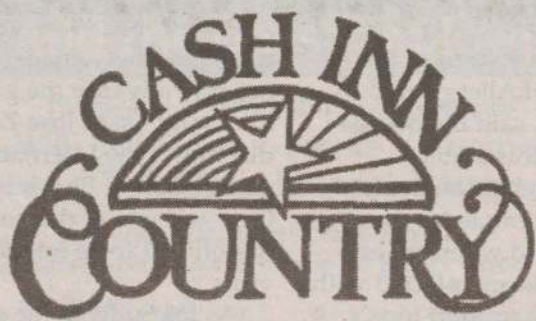
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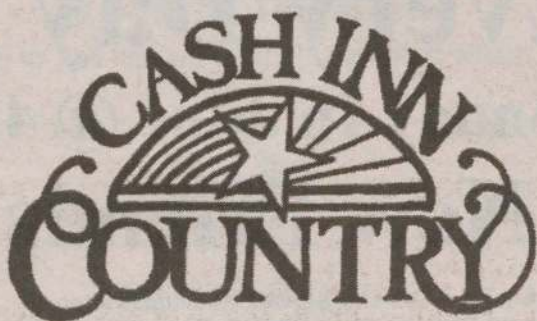
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- Mon:** Closed
- Tues:** Darts
- Wed:** Hump Day: remember Happy Hour starts at 4pm!
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- Fri:** Country Western Music with DJ "De"
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- Sun:** Steak & Chicken Fry \$3, 6-8pm Karaoke with Jamie 7-11pm



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday June 19: Ladies with an Attitude is celebrating 20 years of *Grease!* Charlie's Renegades will perform along with audience participation. Best *Grease* costume wins a prize!



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Walgreens fires gay employee; alleges fraud

Continued from page 1

ship with Pecka. "Our relationship is going full term at this point, so I was updating my stuff," he said. "Finally one day, I remembered Larry was not my beneficiary." Bowen requested the proper form, changed the name and filed it with Walgreens Human Resources division.

The company didn't like it one bit. Bowen said that after showing him a copy of the beneficiary form, Miller asked him if he remembered naming Pecka on his health insurance as well.

That's when Miller told Bowen he was going to be terminated for fraud and that the home office may want to prosecute him.

"I said that first of all, no one ever told me that I couldn't (add Pecka). And second of all, you guys accepted it. You accepted it with two, totally different names. And now you come to me, a year later, telling me that I'm going to be terminated and sued?"

Michael Polzin, a spokesman for Walgreens at its Corporate Communications Department in Deerfield, Illinois confirmed for *HeatStroke* that Bowen was fired for insurance fraud.

"We have taken this action before with people who've claimed opposite-sex live in partners who were not their legal spouses," Polzin stated. Asked whether the company would be taking action against Bowen if he had listed a woman as his dependent instead of a man, Polzin said, "We would if that person was not his spouse."

Yet Bowen believes his firing from Walgreens is a clear case of anti-gay—perhaps even anti-HIV—bias.

Miller told him specifically, he said, that he was being let go because he had insured another man. "It's not the fact that we're two different people who are not married, it's because I insured another man."

Bill Miller returned our call but then said he could not comment on Bowen's case or answer our questions.

Bowen said he knows of two women in the Central & Osborn store that have their boyfriends insured. Those Walgreens employees and their partners have children together, he added, but are not married and are taking advantage of the same health benefits that he and Pecka briefly had.

Polzin said it is against Walgreens policy to insure employees' unmarried partners, whether gay or straight. When told that Bowen believes it is not an uncommon practice among heterosexual workers, Polzin commented, "If that's the case all I can say is that we just haven't caught them yet."

Bowen added, "We can't prove it because I know they won't come forward. But they are not married. We're talking about their health insurance, so they're not going to come forward on this."

His termination, he said, is not really about employees insuring significant others instead of legally defined spouses. "It's that it's a man insuring a man. And that's what they're making a point of."

What's next for Bowen?

Jeff Brodin is a Phoenix attorney who practices in the area of employment law. He also serves on the board of directors for Phoenix Body Positive, a Valley AIDS service organization. Brodin looked at Bowen's story and



Larry Pecka (l) and William Bowen with the array of HIV meds that they take on a daily basis.

said he agrees with the spirit of Bowen's point, but is afraid he's chosen the wrong way to make it.

"If he signed his partner up for benefits that Walgreens did not intend to offer, I don't think the fact that he was able to collect on the benefits for a while is going to make a difference. It was probably still a misrepresentation on his part," Brodin said.

Brodin also said that saying Bowen intended to commit fraud may be going a bit far and that there is certainly a human-interest angle that might tilt the odds in Bowen's favor, should the company carry out its plan to sue.

"It looks like all he was really trying to do was get health benefits for his partner," said Brodin. Whether that adds up to a case of fraud, Brodin said, he's not so sure. "But I would think Walgreens probably has a right to recoup whatever they paid for his partner's medications."

Unfortunately, Brodin said, in Arizona, as in most states, a partner in a same-sex relationship is not entitled to the same benefits as a legally married spouse.

Bowen thinks a "numbers cruncher" somewhere in the system learned just how much Walgreens was paying for the couple's prescriptions and cried foul. He believes that person used the same-sex issue not only to cancel the policy but also to terminate his employment.

"We're HIV, both of us. And the drugs are very expensive. And this is how they're trying to do it. They're trying to cut expenses by kicking me and my lover out."

The three-year-old Osborn & Central store is the second-busiest Walgreens location in the Valley, according to Bowen.

Bowen enjoyed working there and was open about his sexuality. He said he never encountered any homophobia on the staff and doubted that a fellow employee complained about his lover getting insurance coverage.

"I know the people I worked with. The manager of the store just transferred in there. He's been very supportive of me since he's taken over the store and I have nothing against him whatsoever. This is coming from higher up," Bowen said.

"I'm really upset, absolutely appalled by this. Because I come to find out I'm not protected by any state laws and that state law supersedes

federal law. So I'm basically screwed."

Bowen was initially to be suspended, he was told, until District Manager Randy Gusey could come in to fire him officially.

Instead, it was Miller from Loss Prevention who called Bowen back to the store on May 27 and officially terminated him. Miller told him then that the company had decided not to sue to collect the \$5,200 it had already paid for Pecka's HIV medications.

But Polzin told *HeatStroke* on June 1 that the company is seeking to recoup the money. "We are working through the state board of insurance for restitution," he said.

Walgreens reported net sales of more than \$13 billion last year and will likely prove a formidable opponent should Bowen attempt to defend himself against a fraud charge or to pursue the lack-of-fairness issue. He has sought the advice of more than one lawyer.

"I do want to try to pursue this to a certain degree, because I'd like to see Walgreens install a domestic partners policy. They are a big enough company that they should have equal health benefits offered to all their employees."

According to Jeff Brodin, the best way to fight for gay domestic partnership benefits is not to sign up for them and then point out the inequalities in court. "I agree with [Bowen's] point," he said, "but the place to make that point is with the decision makers of the company, or in the legislature, or with people who make laws and policy at the city level."

Company spokesman Polzin said Walgreens does not offer benefits to domestic partners in any state. "We simply state that spouses and dependent children are eligible for coverage. And for spouses, we follow that particular state's definition of a spouse."

Brodin said fighting for domestic partner benefits in court is generally not effective. "You might get their attention, but the way to be effective is to organize all the employees around the cause. Not just gay employees, but all co-workers. Provide the company with the statistics that show adding domestic partner benefits is not as costly as they might think."

It's too late now for Bowen to organize his co-workers or present his bosses with statistics. He's already been fired. Whether he can successfully make his point by arguing in court that the company's policy was unclear or is unfair toward homosexuals remains to be seen.

Arizona's dearth of laws regarding gay employment rights and domestic partnerships came as surprising news to Bowen after his dismissal. Like many Arizonans, he was unaware that one can legally be fired in this state simply for being gay.

"I guess I must have had blinders on to the laws around here. I had always thought myself to be pretty well up on what was going on around me, you know? But I obviously had blinders on to the fact that you're basically getting screwed for who you love. And that's not right," he said.

"I was born here in Phoenix and I'm a native Arizonan. Where Larry and I live now is the same neighborhood my grandparents lived in—I've lived in the same neighborhood for most of my life," he said.

"I was in California for several years and over there you have plenty of rights. In L.A. you were protected.

The companies acknowledge the large gay community and they realize that the gay community has a huge spendable income so, you know, a lot of companies cater to that."

Walgreens: anti-gay or just anti-fraud?

Bowen said he did have inclinations in the past that Walgreens is not supportive of gays and sees his firing over this issue as a clear manifestation of the corporation's less-than-progressive attitude toward gay employees.

"They've had practices in the past that I have not agreed with. They are very anti-woman and anti-gay. I can speak of one woman store manager in the city of Phoenix that I know of. One woman." The Phoenix phone book lists more than 90 store locations in the metro area.

"This is the Old Boy's Club, trust me, and they stick to that," added Bowen.

"They are building stores daily, too. Their goal is to open one new store a week for the rest of the year. And they're doing it."

But, he said, they don't promote women and they don't promote gays. "I know one gay store manager and he is in the closet." If you are a gay man or female, Bowen said, Walgreens will gladly use you. "They'll use you because you'll work harder. But as far as promotions and stuff, forget it."

Asked whether he would continue working there even if the company apologized and hired him back, Bowen sighed heavily. "I probably won't. Because I've spent a lot of money with that company. You know, on my prescriptions."

He said his prescriptions were not cheap even when they were covered by Walgreens through Aetna. The copay for both men was \$13 per prescription for a month's supply, and he said they were each filling anywhere between six and ten prescriptions a month.

"I don't want to spend my money in a company that's going to be unsupportive of the community." He said his entire family is fuming mad and has vowed not to do business at Walgreens until they institute a policy that installs equal rights for domestic partners. "My dad won't even go there for pictures or a prescription."

Harsh lessons for Bowen: gay workers have fewer rights

Bowen said everyone in the store was supportive on the day he left. "They couldn't believe that I was being let go because of what was going on. They were appalled. But they aren't going to talk about it because they see what I'm facing."

Most frustrating for Bowen is the feeling that he was fired while contributing to the country's economy and for doing what he thought was morally right and fair under the law. "I'm working. I'm not a burden on the system," he explained.

"I have been HIV for five years and have worked all that time, other than a few incidents of being sick. I have not been one of these people that have made the system pay for me..."

"I get up and I go to work every morning. I pay my taxes, I paid my premiums. And then I find out, what good does all this do me? Because I don't have any rights as a human being is what this all boils down to. I don't have any rights."

SUMMER SIZZLES

Gentle Shepherd
Metropolitan Community Church

Explore ways of integrating your sexuality and your spirituality in a five part sermon series entitled "The God of the Bible is a Homosexual Lover".

- 6/7 - "Sex, It's So Divine!"
- 6/14 - "Is God Gay?"
- 6/21 - "God is a Diesel Dyke!"
- 6/28 - "Sex, The Other Gift of the Spirit."
- 7/5 - "Get It Girlfriend!"

A discussion group will meet each Sunday at 6pm at 3201 N. 16th St., Suite #4 to take an in-depth look at that morning's sermon. Everyone is welcome to participate!

ANNOUNCING...
BINGO AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER!

Beginning Saturday, June 13th from 7:00 to 9:00pm and continuing every second Saturday of the month, same place - same time! The Community Center is located at 24 W Camelback, Suite C (next to Obelisk).

Sponsored by Gentle Shepherd MCC, proceeds benefit the Valley of the Sun Lesbian & Gay Community Center and Gentle Shepherd.

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- ◆ AT THE AMC ESPLANADE THEATER 24TH & CAMELBACK
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- ◆ CALL TO REGISTER 955-HOPE (4673)
- ◆ FREE PARKING: REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS

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Open Dance Floor

\$1 well & domestics, 8pm - 1am

Wednesday

2-4-1, 9pm to Close

Thursday

\$1 Screws, \$1.50 Margaritas Night
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Sunday

Tea Dance, 3pm - 10pm

2-4-1 drinks

\$1 mimosas & bloody marys, 11am - 3pm

Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the
Phoenix Queer Community

APAZ workshop, BIA testing

A group for HIV positive men wishing to deal with issues of codependency is being offered by AIDS Project Arizona, facilitated by Dr. Gerrie Mayer-Gibbons. Face to Face III will begin Monday, June 8 and will continue for the next six weeks at the APAZ offices in Phoenix on Monday evenings from 6-8 pm. Call (602) 265-2437 to reserve a space in this free program.

APAZ will also offer another free BIA testing and nutritional consultation through its Being Alive program for early intervention. The testing will last from 9 am to 3 pm at 111 East Camelback. Attendees should plan to spend at least ten minutes on the consultation and test, and bring their most recent lab results and a list of medications they are currently taking to the site. Call Edgar at (602) 265-2437 to sign up.

Quilt panel workshops continue

The Malta Center in Phoenix is still offering its regular Quilt Panel Workshops on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm at the center, 3033A North 7th Avenue in Phoenix.

You don't have to know how to sew—there are several experienced quilters in the group who can help with ideas and construction, and the group already has extra materials on hand.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt will be visiting Phoenix in the winter of 1999 so now is a great time to plan and begin your memorial panel. Call Malta at (602) 212-0222.

PBP to host camping trip

Phoenix Body Positive Family Support Services and the Women's Task Force present the Second Annual Great Outdoors Camping Trip, June 26-28.

This year the group will camp at the Cave Springs Campground, 11 miles north of Sedona on SR 89A. The gang will leave Phoenix at 10 am Friday and return Sunday.

PBP will provide campsite fees for Friday and Saturday nights, seminars and a cookout on Saturday night. Those wishing to join the trip must RSVP to Miranda at (602) 955-4673 no later than June 12.

CBPA June events

The Camelback Business and Professional Association is the Valley of the Sun's Gay, Lesbian and gay-friendly chamber of commerce and the active group has several activities scheduled this month.

The Annual CBPA Awards Dinner will take place June 6 at the Phoenix Airport Hilton, 2435 South 47th Street in Phoenix. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 with dinner at 7:30 pm. Master of Ceremonies will be Sate Representative Ken Chevront and entertainment will be provided by the Grand Canyon Men's Chorale.

Recognition will be given to the Businessman of the Year, Businesswoman of the Year, and the

Ron Barnes Community Service Award will also be presented. The cost is \$45 per person.

The June CBPA NetMix will be held at the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center on June 10 at 6:30 pm. The address is 24 West Camelback Road in Phoenix. Members should bring business cards and advertisements to promote their businesses. The cost is \$10.

The next Lunch Bunch gatherings will be held at Pookie's Cafe in Phoenix on Tuesday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 30 at 11:30 am. Everyone buys his/her own lunch for this casual and fun networking/social event.

The General Meeting this month will be the Annual Town Hall on Thursday, June 18 at the Airport Hilton. Cost is \$16 for members, \$19 for guests including dinner, or \$10 for the meeting only. RSVP all the above events to CBPA, (602) 225-8444.

APEX to host Musafar and Cleo

Fakir Musafar, internationally known body piercer and modifier, will visit Phoenix as a guest of the Arizona Power Exchange on June 15 at 7 pm. Musafar will be accompanied by his partner, Cleo.

Musafar is known worldwide for his 50 years of research and personal



exploration of "body play". He and Cleo will be sharing their unique, deep transformative experiences in body rituals and SM play. This will be the pair's first-ever appearance in Phoenix. A ritual branding will also take place.

APEX calls this event a must-see for the curious and open minded. For the event's location and recorded information on this and other APEX issues, call (602) 415-1123.

Bears of Summer: FunFest at Charlie's

The Phoenix Bears and Charlie's are combining their efforts to convince members and friends of the Phoenix social club for bear men and their admirers that it's a dry heat here in June.

Starting Friday, June 19 and on through Sunday, June 21 there will be a gathering of bear-folk from far and wide for a weekend FunFest. There will be all sorts of fun and frolic out and about in the Valley and a nice, cool atmosphere back at Charlie's with games, prizes, contests, along with food, fellowship & fun—and lots of bear stuff.

It will be a great weekend to spend time resting and relaxing with friends so join the bears and make June in Phoenix even hotter. Visit the website at www.phoenixbears.com or call (602) 216-8000 for more information and current details.

Bump, set, laugh...



Teams from Wink's and BS West joined teams from Charlie's for an interbar volleyball tournament on the patio at Charlie's in central Phoenix on May 31.

The friendly competition entertained the afternoon crowd and raised \$120 for the Phoenix chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Cactus Cities Softball League — Standings

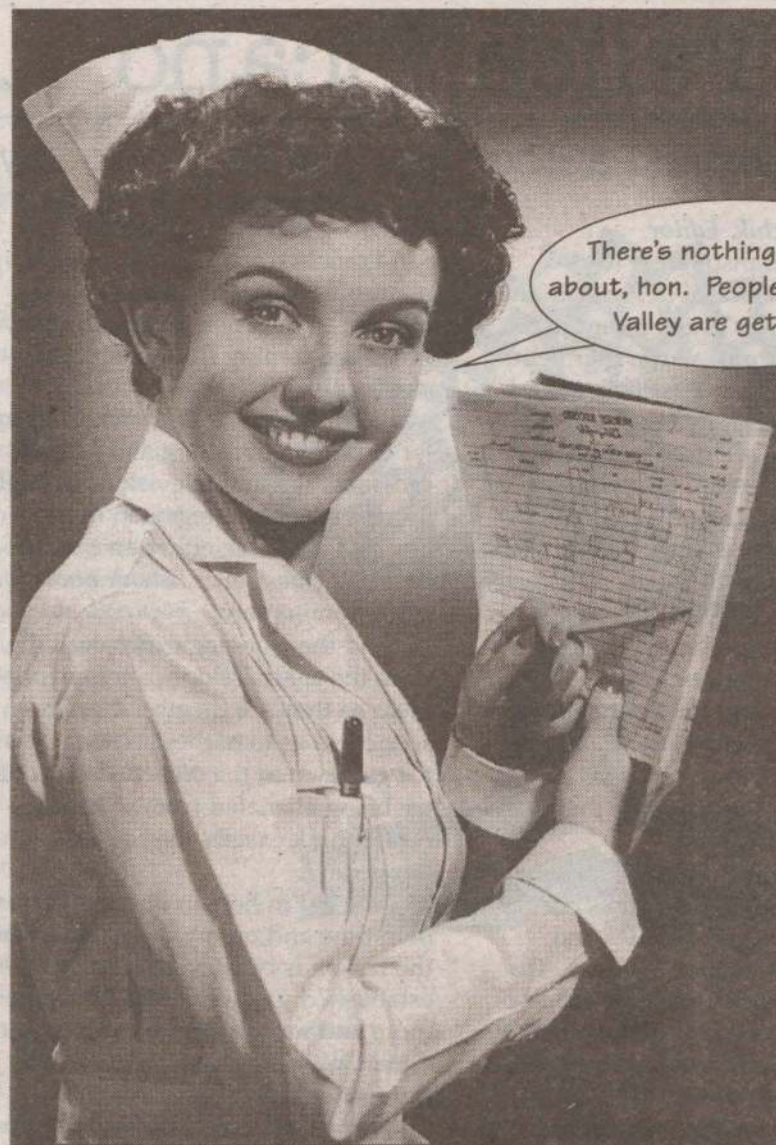
The Cactus Cities Softball League plays on Sunday mornings at Eldorado Park in Scottsdale, at the corner of Miller and Oak. Everyone is welcome to watch and cheer on their favorite teams in three divisions in the Valley's gay & lesbian softball league.

League results as of 5/25/98 are:

WOMEN'S DIVISION		
Rank	Team	Record
1	Cash Inn	13-1
2	Bas Bleu	11-0-1
3	2GirlGraphics/Page Whitney	9-4-1
4	Castle Boutique Players	7-5
5	Roscoe's Heat	6-6
6	Nasty Habits	6-7-1
7	Desert Reproductions	6-8
8	Movies on Central	5-7
9	The Mavericks	3-9-1
10	The Biz/Experience This	2-10
11	All About Destinations	2-11

OPEN DIVISION - COMPETITIVE		
Rank	Team	Record
1	Roscoe's	10-1
2	Wink's	9-2
3	Pookie's	0-12

OPEN DIVISION - RECREATIONAL		
Rank	Team	Record
1	Roscoe's X-Treme	9-1
2	First Family Medical	7-1-1
3	Bunk House Scorchers	5-5
4	Wink's Warriors	4-6-1
5	BS West Express	4-7
6	Gay Yellow Pages	2-9



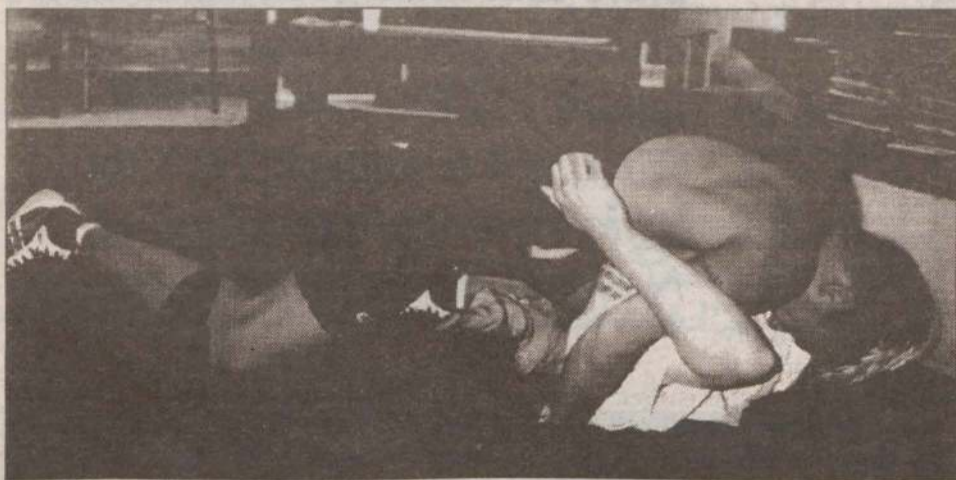
Get
HeatStroke

Gay & Lesbian Life, Commentary & Culture

Wrestlers' strapped jock party was a snap

The Spartan Wrestling Club of Phoenix drew an interesting and particularly liberated crowd when the club concluded its third season with an exhibition and fund-raiser

on Sunday, May 31 at Incognito. There was a wrestling exhibition, a raffle and a Spartan slave auction, and bar patrons and club members alike had a great time.



NGLTF study shows majority of Americans support equal rights for gay people

(GLAAD) According to a groundbreaking study released May 29 by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Policy Institute, a growing majority of Americans support equal rights for lesbian and gay citizens. Kerry Lobel, NGLTF Executive Director said, "This report empirically and objectively proves that while the voice of the anti-gay right wing may be loud in its opposition to equal rights, its claim to majority public opinion is unjusti-

fied." The report, "From Wrongs to Rights: Public Opinion of Gay and Lesbian Americans Moves Toward Equality," found that 84 percent support equality on the basis of sexual orientation in the work place, 81 percent support equal housing opportunities, 62 percent support equal inheritance rights, 57 percent support social security benefits for same-sex couples, and 66 percent voiced support for lesbians and gay men to serve in the military.

Paco Paco Specials

Mondays & Tuesdays
4-10pm, \$1 well & domestics
10pm-close, \$2 well & domestics
50c Miller Lite Drafts all night

Wednesdays
4-9pm, \$2 Tecates & Coronas

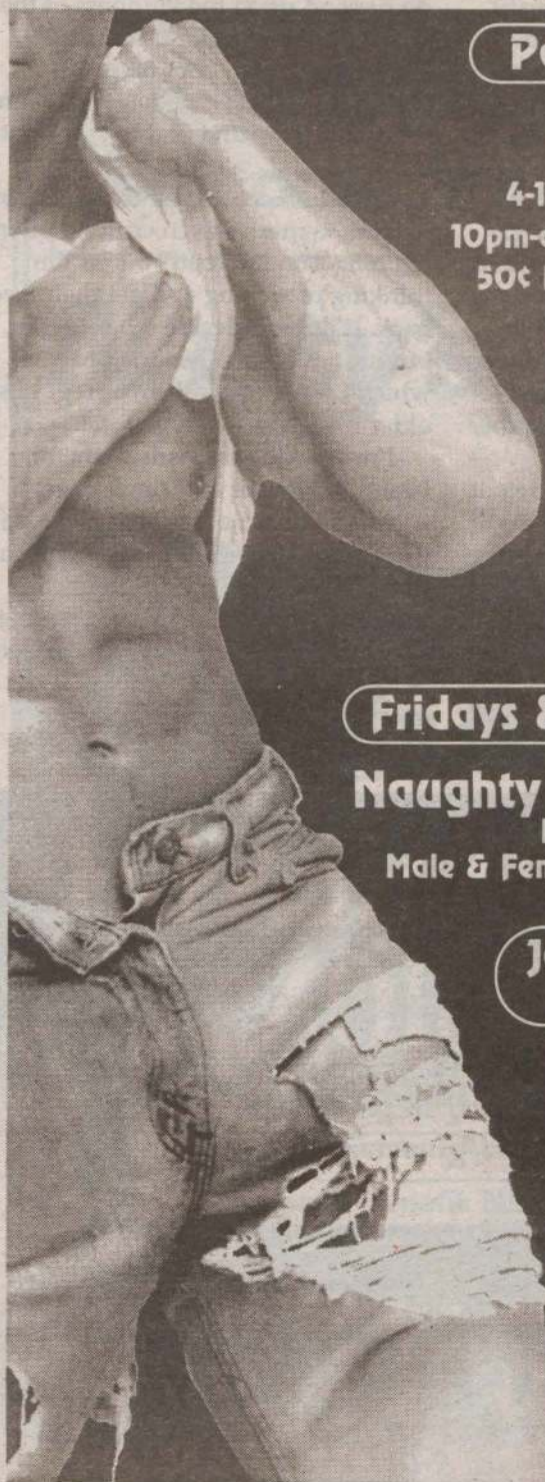
Wednesdays-Sundays
4-9pm, \$1 off all drinks & 50c Miller Lite Drafts

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Male & Female Reviews on Sundays

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By Felice Picano...

This seasoned author has plenty yet to say

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Recently transplanted to California—"sick of living with the ghosts" he finds ever-present in his native New York—gay writer Felice Picano drove through Phoenix and Tucson in mid-May to investigate our adjacent state and to sign and read from his latest published work at local gay bookstores.

Picano's newest autobiographical tale, *A House on the Ocean, a House on the Bay* (1997, Faber & Faber) just came out in paperback. The book chronicles the author's early publishing successes and his firsthand experiences amid the decadence and creativity of the burgeoning gay social scene on Fire Island in the pre-plague '70s.

The memoir is another succulent reminder that Picano, who's been published in three decades and whose works include *The Lure*, *The New Joy of Gay Sex* and *Like People in History*, has seen and done a lot in his 54 years and has endured to write about it all.

As a founder of the illustrious Violet Quill Club, a gay writing group begun in New York more than twenty years ago, he counts among his friends and acquaintances Andrew Holleran, Edmund White and nearly every other gay literary icon of the pre and post Stonewall eras.

Prior to his appearance at Obelisk in central Phoenix on May 17, we grabbed a moment of Picano's time to discuss some topical issues for *HeatStroke* readers via e-mail.

Apart from the paragraph breaks (they're ours—his were lost in the software transfer) the prolific author's ideas appear as written. Or perhaps in Mr. Picano's case, as crafted would be a more apt description.

HS: How much do you think the gay "cultural elite" of both Coasts impacts what's published for and marketed to gay men, wherever they may live in the U.S.? Aren't gay men in the country's midsection sometimes deliberately alienated from gay fiction and other printed information?

Picano: I actually think the idea of a bicoastal gay cultural elite is a myth today. It had some currency a few years back, when New York, then the Bay Area took turns dominating the gay male lit scene, but no longer.

Conferences like Outwrite in Boston and A Different Light's

Readers and Writers Conference in San Francisco are regional and are by no means crucial in terms of their influence. Most new books and plays I read are coming from people all over country.

Because New York remains a center of book publishing and L.A. a center of film and television naturally more writers congregate in those places. I don't see either area dominating the bestseller lists or book prize nominations.

And the gay magazines deriving from the coasts seldom alter anyone's ideas as they are themselves seldom so tactless as to harbor an idea. As for gay men in the center of the country being alienated from gay literature, I think exactly the opposite is happening.

I mean I'm here in Phoenix on my own time and on my own money, and the reason is because like many other established gay writers I've become more and more aware through letters, e-mail, meetings that here is where my readers are.

When I'm hooked up with a publisher with money (unlike say Faber) for publicity, I make certain I appear not just in the big five cities, but much in between—Denver, Columbus, Gainesville, St. Paul, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Sacramento, Northampton, New Orleans, Richmond.

That is not only a "thank you" but because people from those places ask me to come, and an important reason why I go is because gay writers really do depend upon the kindness of their strange readership or they lose it. Harvey Fierstein, once he went Hollywood, lost what connected him to his audience and had to stop writing plays.

I like to meet with and be met by readers, writers—even critics. I often tell folks "on the road" books I'm thinking of writing and get their feedback. It doesn't decide what I write, but it does often affect the order in which I write or publish, or republish older titles.

I'm working on visits to the Big Island of Hawaii and Anchorage, Alaska some time this year. Sure, part of it is sightseeing and the fun of travel, but it's also where people live. Brilliant, or merely well-read people live everywhere for whatever reasons. Before I retire, I hope to make it to every state in the union.

HS: Please discuss the impact of AIDS on gay men's literature, particularly novels. Are gay readers/your book-buying public tired of hearing about AIDS? How have the disease and losses you've personally experienced affected your output and what part does AIDS play in your work at this point?

Picano: Well, I've said it before and I'll say it again: Despite its enormous and devastating affect on my own life as well as millions of others, AIDS has been little more than a

rather... juvenile.

And what else? Well, nothing else. Now we all have this lovely elegiac parable about dying young and or unfairly which happened to us, or someone close, or someone we'll never forget etc. etc.

I must confess it took me a while to see the belletristic utility of the disease. I mostly spent the eighties and part of the nineties caring for people then burying them one after the other. When I turned around to see who was next for Nurse Picano, well, no one was next. Everyone was dead.

So after a tasteful, minor nervous breakdown, I collected what remained of my wits and began writing again.

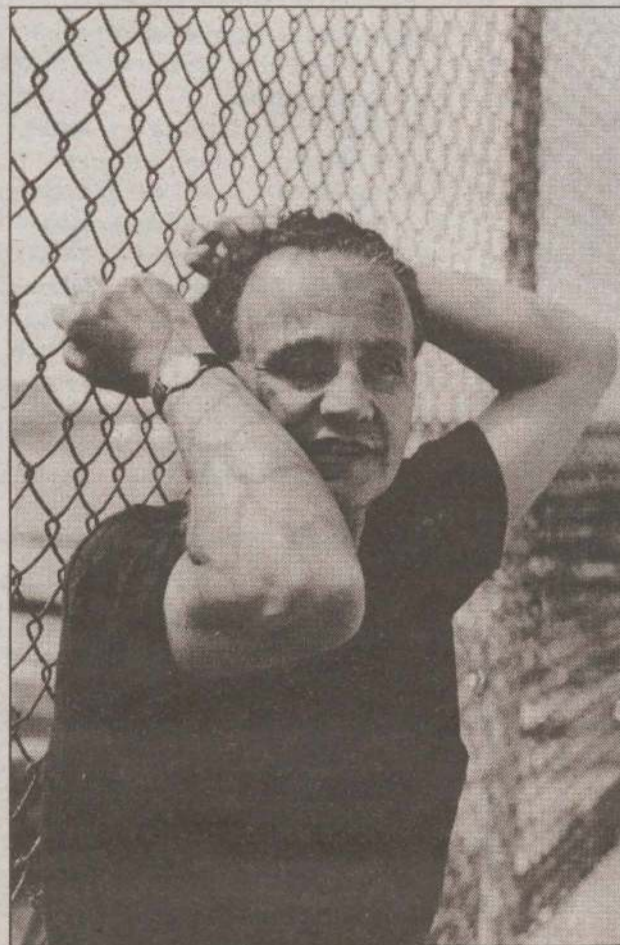
First I completed *The New Joy of Gay Sex*, so younger people wouldn't get caught as we had. Then I went back to work on the book that became *Like People in History*, which until then had lacked little but its now natural-seeming frame device and its last portions.

Then I completed my half written memoir about Fire Island and the late sixties and seventies, *A House on the Ocean a House on the Bay*—far less stressful now that most of the people I was writing about were conveniently defunct.

From there I found I was artistically freed.

AIDS is not a major part, not even a plot device, of my big new gay novel *The Book of Lies*, being published in England this June—that's a literary (and highly literate) post-modern mystery. Nor is AIDS even mentioned in the illustrated novel *Looking Glass Lives* that Alyson is publishing here this September.

Having liberated myself so clever-



major distraction to gay politics and culture and the greatest time waster we've had since long before the Stonewall Riots.

Its effect on our literature has been virtually nil in terms of quality. Perhaps a bit more depth has resulted in the work of its survivors, but there's no saying that mightn't have happened anyway with age and wisdom and experience. Perhaps a few good stories or poems came from infected people who'd otherwise not write.

But if you compare what was written by gay men in the twelve years before AIDS to the twelve "during"—say 1980 to 1992—all the really important and pathbreaking stuff is earlier.

The AIDS novels, memoirs and plays that have gotten the most attention are sentimental, agitprop, silly fables—mediocre when not trumpery, even those which won Pulitzers and National Book Awards. They and their authors will be forgotten in a few decades. (Take that!)

On the other hand... he added cold-bloodedly... as a plot and character mechanism in literature not specifically about the subject, AIDS has been—for a handful of writers—a charm, in some cases a definite boon.

Why? Because it has provided something of a lodestone, a common chord, even (portentously intoned) a universal referent—which until then always seemed missing from gay life. I mean what did we all share until AIDS? Coming out? Okay but it's a bit simplistic and almost always

The AIDS novels, memoirs and plays that have gotten the most attention are sentimental, agitprop, silly fables—mediocre when not trumpery, even those which won Pulitzers and National Book Awards.

ly, I've since half-wittedly thrown myself back into the quagmire again.

I've begun writing a novel set in the early nineties, in which one of three main characters is a man dying, the second is his long term lover and the third a married "straight" man the lover takes on as sexual expedient, because the two gay men still adore each other even though they can no longer even kiss.

It's of course autobiographical, and I'm trying to be brain numbingly truthful no matter how much it privately anguishes me, so I can only work for a few months, before I lose my nerve and have to stop and regroup for a longish while.

Even so, I may actually finish it some year.

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LRP: growing and changing

By Norma Turner, special to HeatStroke

The Lesbian Resource Project is . . . a tree!

That's what women have been discussing and defining this past month under the leadership of Jo Miller.

Jo helped us to look at the organization for Valley lesbians as a tree—a model of an ecosystem needing nutrients, producing fruit and yet subject to pollutants.

Over the course of three meetings, women discussed all parts of the system. The Nutrients include the women bonds; the care, the energy and giving of women; our past history; and, of course, money—among other things.

Our Fruits include our events and happenings: Dawg Daze, the Auction, TLC Chorale, the Common Interest Groups, the Health Fair, and the many instances of social interaction, information and education for and among women.

However, we do need to pay attention to our Pollutants. The women looked closely at LRP's problems/challenges and narrowed them to three major issues: a) Lack of Space, b) Lack of Follow-Up, and c) Lack of Representation. These three issues will form the basis for planning LRP's future.

A) Lack of space. Obviously, we need the space, but space requires just the right location and MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.

B) Lack of follow-up is due to lack of volunteers—we are a volunteer organization. At this time, five women are responding to phone messages, attempting to answer questions and requests. We are trying to do our best until we have a place where more volunteers can help staff the phones.

C) Lack of representation will need to be worked on—we need to continue to educate ourselves on our racist, classist, and ethnocentric attitudes and work harder to make every woman feel welcomed to be part of the LRP.

The most positive outcome for the LRP Board was the great show of support for LRP. The lesbian community is huge, diverse, and involved in varying degrees in different types of activities.

In the past, because most of our funding came from grants, we were put in a position of having to offer services. We became, in effect, a service organization, meeting the needs of clients by providing services to meet certain types of needs.

Now, we want to revisit that mission. Instead, we want to respond, first of all, to any and all women in

the valley without restrictions and concerns for grant reporting and compliance. To do that, we need to shift the source of our support—from outside agencies to our own sisters.

We need help—financially—to continue to do those things women enjoy and to provide the visibility we all need in this valley. Every woman needs to support the LRP with her money.

The four women on the LRP Board have been focusing tremendous time and energy on helping to shape LRP's future. We would like more lesbians to join us in this venture as board members.

Please call us to receive a packet of information on what board membership involves. If you would like to volunteer, please call us also. We will call you back regarding the next opportunities for helping in various ways.



And to all of you who participated in the town hall meetings, who come to the board meetings to offer your input, who help at various events and fundraisers, and to those of you who have hung in there, supporting us during this transition—a major Thank You!

Please send your tax deductible check to LRP, P.O. Box 1917, Tempe, AZ 85280-1917. For more information, you can reach us at (602) 266-5542 or e-mail us at <mailto:lrp@swlink.net>

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Go to Your Room

By Kelly Reidhead, Managing Editor

It must be an unwritten rule in Hollywood: to make lots of money on a romantic comedy, its two main characters—of opposite genders, of course—must “meet cute.”

Expect *Music from Another Room* to be a whopping box office success: this film has cornered the market in “cute meetings.”

Five year-old Danny and his father have been invited to Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Grace (Brenda Blethyn), the best friend of his recently deceased mother. After the feast, the very pregnant Grace goes into labor. Because Danny's father is a physician, they decide he will deliver the baby right there in the den.

But during the delivery, he discovers a serious problem: the umbilical cord is wrapped around the baby's neck. Undeterred, he summons his son and guides Danny—with his unwashed five-year old's hands—through the process of untangling the cord from within Grace's body.

After some tense moments Danny is successful, baby Anna is born, and he jubilantly proclaims that he will marry her some day.

Isn't that special?

Cut to the present: the adult Danny (Jude Law) moves back to his hometown after being raised in England, and is soon reunited with Grace and her family. Danny is thunderstruck by the grown-up Anna (Gretchen Mol), who is engaged to marry Eric (Jon Tenney), a wealthy and all around decent guy.

Danny endears himself to the fam-

ily, and spends his time trying to get the stodgy and uptight Anna to follow her heart—which he hopes will lead back to him.

Music from Another Room has a lot of nice elements; unfortunately, the promising bits are fatally weighed down by those that don't work.



Jude Law and Martha Plimpton are the best things about *Music from Another Room*.

The high points are a pair of really nice performances.

Jude Law (*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, *Gattaca* and the soon-to-be released *Wilde*) is extremely appealing as Danny. Law has an on-screen intensity that make his scenes spark—even when delivering clunkers: “The last time I saw you, you were covered in afterbirth.” Law's performance single handedly saved the film from sinking further from the merely mediocre to the truly malodorous.

Martha Plimpton (*Beautiful Girls*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*), who plays Karen, Anna's sister, also shines in her far too brief role as a feminist rabble-rouser. The scenes in which Karen casts Danny to play the pig in her all

woman (plus one male porker) play are funny and effective—the best in the film.

It's too bad the entire film isn't centered around these two characters. Instead, *Music from Another Room* predictably delivers on its cute meeting promise: Danny is obsessed by Anna, not her more interesting sister.

Unfortunately, Gretchen Mol, although beautiful, can't act: she reads her lines flatly, with no emotional engagement. Her wooden performance throws a major wrench into the plot's credibility. Why would a sharp, incurably romantic guy like Danny waste his time on such a drip—especially when cynical and wise-cracking Karen is available? Oh

yeah—Danny and Anna had that really cute meeting 20 years ago.

In addition to Moll's lame portray-

Dial C for Casting

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

The trouble with updating a Hitchcock classic is that darn it, it's already a classic. Not to mention a Hitchcock.

That said, there are enough worthy elements present in the Murder!Intrigue!Suspense! department to make *A Perfect Murder* worth recommending—but just barely. The new thriller stars Michael Douglas and Gwyneth Paltrow and is based on the Frederick Knott play, *Dial M for Murder*.

The Master of Suspense used Knott's title when he filmed the story in 1954, starring Grace Kelly, Ray Milland and Robert Cummings.

The problem with this version isn't what you'd expect—that Paltrow can't measure up to Grace Kelly's memorable performance as the beautiful young heiress whose murder is plotted by her own husband.

Paltrow actually fares quite nicely here and brings a Kelly-esque dose of savvy and sensuous dignity to the victim role. Surprisingly (to me) she's the best thing in the movie, though Philip Rosenberg's brilliant production design comes a close second.

The fault in *A Perfect Murder* lies instead with the way the script has been reworked (by first-time scribe Patrick Smith Kelly) to make the villain its most prominent character. It's a difficult way to present a two-hour story and as Steven Taylor, the murderous husband, Michael Douglas is badly miscast.

Oh, there's murder all right, and the suspense is definitely there—but Douglas just isn't intriguing enough. It doesn't help that he looks too old to convincingly play Paltrow's mate, or that he's reprising what amounts to the same heartless, über-wealthy tycoon he played in both last year's *The Game* and in Oliver Stone's *Wall Street*.

With his dark shades, upswept hair and trench coat, Douglas looks for all the world like a rich, sleazy movie star playing someone's idea of a rich, sleazy New York businessman. And there's nothing Paltrow or director Andrew Davis can do to save their

Outonfilm

al of Anna, another element of *Music from Another Room* really smells bad: the depiction of Nina (Jennifer Tilly), Anna and Karen's blind sister.

Although Tilly is serviceable in the role, the script shamelessly stereotypes Nina, and then uses her as a metaphor for the “healing power of love.”

In the first half of the film, Nina is shown as an utterly helpless woman who is entirely dependent on her family. She neither reads nor walks without human assistance. But all this changes in the second half: because Nina has found love, suddenly she not only fearlessly walks by herself—without a white cane—but she also rides a bicycle.

Puh-leeze. This sickening caricature of a blind person may have been excusable in films made in the fifties; today, it's insensitive and just plain stupid.

scenes together from a kind of unintended camp.

He brings enough anger and intensity to the role, but he's all too obvious about it. Clearly Douglas has seen better days. His Steven Taylor lacks humanity, and that's a character trait we need, even in a villain, if he's to lead us through the rather complex plot until it climaxes.

Also poorly placed in *A Perfect Murder* is Viggo Mortensen. Mortensen is a decent enough actor but he doesn't hold up as David Shaw, Paltrow's artist lover who is also an ex-con. As in Hitchcock's version, Shaw is hired by Taylor to rub his wife out. Then both men's plans go awry when the Little Missus turns out to be much harder to kill than either bargained for.

Much has been made of Mortensen's swarthy sex appeal, but I sure don't get it. He mumbles so badly and looks so oily that it's hard to understand what Paltrow's character finds appealing about him, especially after he puts his clothes back on—and keeps them on—following the opening credits.

If you like a finely woven plot and enjoy couple of good, healthy scares (and not a little blood) in a suspense thriller, and if you appreciate the finer details that make up a film's overall



Gwyneth Paltrow and Michael Douglas star in *A Perfect Murder*

look and design, then you'll find *A Perfect Murder* well worth seeing.

If you count yourself among the growing legion of Gwyneth Paltrow fans and already appreciate the finer details of her overall look and design, then you'll want to rush right out.

Otherwise, the price of admission to *A Perfect Murder* might be better spent on a movie with a less assured-sounding title. One that features, say, *A Decent Actor*.

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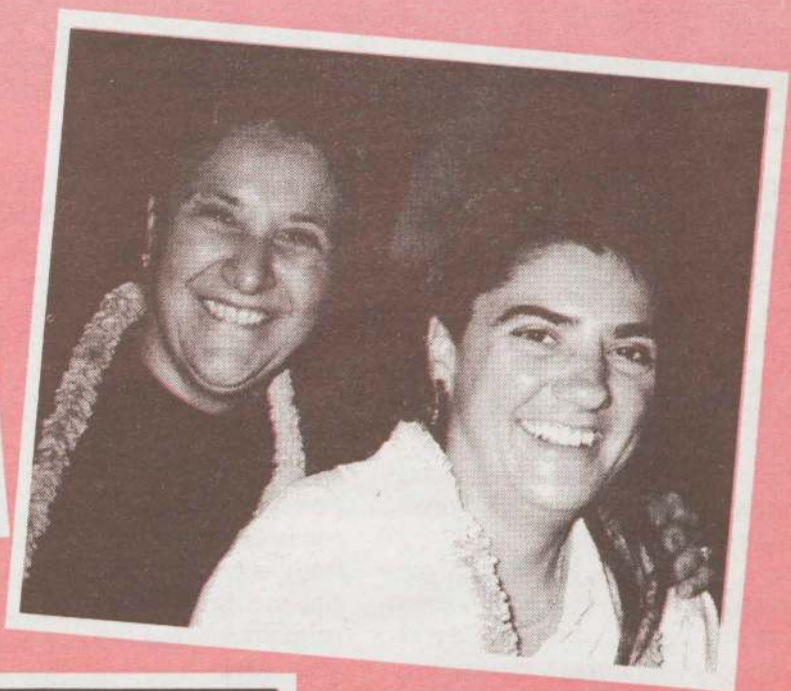
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ASU bringing Chicago back; announces new season

ASU Public Events will bring *Chicago*, the drop-dead Broadway musical that enjoyed a sold-out run at ASU's Gammage Auditorium in April, back to the Valley for one week, July 28-August 2.

The demand return engagement features an all-new cast that includes lesbian comic Lea DeLaria as Matron Mama Morton. Also starring are Stephanie Pope as Velma Kelly and Belle Calaway as Roxie Hart.

Tickets can be purchased now and charged by phone through Dillard's or by calling Gammage directly at (602) 965-3434.

The 1998-99 season of ASU's

Broadway Series has been finalized by ASU Public Events and Pace theatrical. The upcoming season will feature six shows including *Annie*, *Miss Saigon*, *Victor Victoria*, *Bring in 'Da Noise*, *Bring in 'Da Funk*, *Riverdance* and *Footloose*.

The series will begin with *Annie* in September and a subscriber special production of *The Wizard of Oz* starring Mickey Rooney and Eartha Kitt will be featured in November. *Victor Victoria* will open in March and will star Toni Tennille.

Call Gammage Box Office to charge season tickets.

Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Counter-programming

NBC's fall schedule includes a comedy with a gay character as a lead—and no, I'm not talking Nathan Lane's new sitcom.

Will and Grace stars Eric McCormack and Debra Messing as roomies; he's a gay lawyer and she's an interior designer. The show is scheduled for Monday's, sandwiched between "Must-See" *Suddenly Susan* and *Caroline in the City*.

Lane, meanwhile, gets a plum time slot for his first sitcom, *Encore!*, scheduled to air Tuesdays after *Mad About You*. The show features Lane as a retired opera singer who returns to California to help run the family vineyard.

The Next Big Thing

Gay actor Rupert Everett is seemingly everywhere these days, with Madonna often by his side. The two friends are set to star in *The Next Best Thing* as, get this, two friends.

Perhaps Carlos Leon can help Everett prepare for his role as a sperm donor who impregnates Madonna's character only to be left behind when she falls in love. Shooting is scheduled to get underway later this year.

Everett has also signed to star opposite Matthew Broderick in a live-action big screen adaptation of the kiddie TV show *Inspector Gadget*, in which he will play the villain Claw.

And he will appear alongside

Minnie Driver in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, which is being produced by Mel Gibson's Icon Productions.

Homophobes of the Week

Don't let that last item fool you, though. Mel Gibson has long had his problems with the gay community, stemming from some controversial statements he made in a print interview a few years back.

Though he tried to patch things up with GLAAD, a recent report indicates that Gibson still has something against queers.

A recent Matthew Rolston photo shoot for *US* magazine was to feature the cast of *Lethal Weapon 4* (including Mel) in a faux police lineup with, among other characters, a drag queen known as Aneeda Fix.

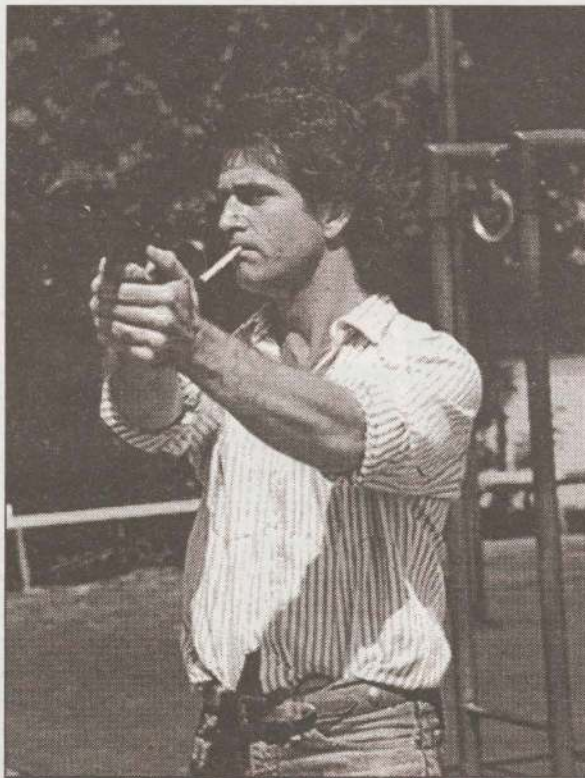
But Gibson didn't show up and, according to those who overheard, his publicist stated that the Aussie hunk doesn't take pictures with drag queens. The shoot was completed without Fix, though Gibson's publicist says the

real reason the initial line-up was nixed was because he didn't think it was funny.

Kind of like *Bird on a Wire*?

Meanwhile, comedian Damon Wayans made his feelings about gays well-known at a recent gig at West Hollywood's Laugh Factory.

Those in the audience report that Wayans went on and on about "fag-gots," bragging after one gay couple left that he had cleared the audience of queers.



No drag queens please: Mel Gibson refused to be photographed with fellow cast member (and female impersonator) Aneeda Fix.

© 1997 Warner Bros.

ten by Guinevere Turner, who penned the lesbian comedy *Go Fish* will still be used.

DiCaprio must have a thing for murderers. He's also in discussions with Spike Lee to star in the writer/director's planned feature on the "Son of Sam" killings that terrorized New York City in the late '70s.

Psycho II

Anne Heche has signed on to play the doomed heroine (originally played by Janet Leigh) in Gus Van Sant's *Psycho* remake.

She'll also appear in Shirley MacLaine's directing debut *Bruno*, which just began filming in New York. The story focuses on a boy who escapes his troubles at home by dreaming of becoming an angel.

Pornucopia

Hollywood's obsession with the porn industry continues in an upcoming feature about the multiple murder trial of the original Dirk Diggler, John Holmes.

Holmes, who died of AIDS, was a suspect in the 1981 murders of four people on Wonderland Avenue in Laurel Canyon.

Michael Biehn (*Terminator*) will star as Holmes, though there's no word yet on whether he'll have to don a fake apparatus a la Mark Wahlberg in *Boogie Nights*.

She's Back...

Ellen's not quite done with, despite the disappointing series finale that aired last month.

Two previously unaired episodes will be shown this summer in *Ellen*'s traditional Wednesday 9:30 p.m. slot.

One of the two shows is said to include a scene where DeGeneres

Eyewitnesses branded the evening as "mean-spirited and blatantly homophobic," according to published reports.

A Spade's a Spade

Just Shoot Me star David Spade has signed to play a gay man in an untitled comedy scheduled to begin filming in December.

The SNL alum's character is hit on the head by a disco ball in the film, causing him to lose his memory. His father takes the opportunity to convince his son that he's really straight.

I'm laughing already.

Leo Goes Psycho

Leonardo DiCaprio is bringing one of the most controversial novels of the '90s to the big screen.

The skinny stud is being paid \$21 million to play the title role in *American Psycho*, which was penned by gay author Bret Easton Ellis (*Less Than Zero*).

The role will be quite a departure from the *Titanic* hero that has teenagers the world over swooning at the very mention of his name. Leo plays a young Wall Streeter with a misogynistic and murderous nightlife.

The movie, set to begin production this fall in New York, carries a \$40 million price tag, reasonable by today's standards but much gaudier than the original \$6 million budget producer Lions Gate intended.

That projection was made during the film's original incarnation, which was to star Christian Bale (*Empire of the Sun*) and be directed by Mary Harron (*I Shot Andy Warhol*). But Harron dropped out of the picture after Leo replaced Bale.

No word on whether Harron's script adaptation (which was co-writ-



Former Scottsdale resident and SNL alum David Spade will play a gay man in his next film.

© 1998 Miramax Films

kisses her TV girlfriend, Lisa Darr. No word yet on when the unseen episodes will be airing.

He's Back...

In scarier news, Joel Schumacher (who brought us the *Batman and Robin* debacle) has resurfaced with a new script that has Robert DeNiro attached.

DeNiro will play a bigoted type who must take singing lessons from a drag queen as part of his stroke rehabilitation. Filming is scheduled to begin this fall in New York.

Romeo San Vicente, who can't believe he was overlooked again at the Daytime Emmy Awards, can be reached care of *HeatStroke* or at RSVicente@aol.com.

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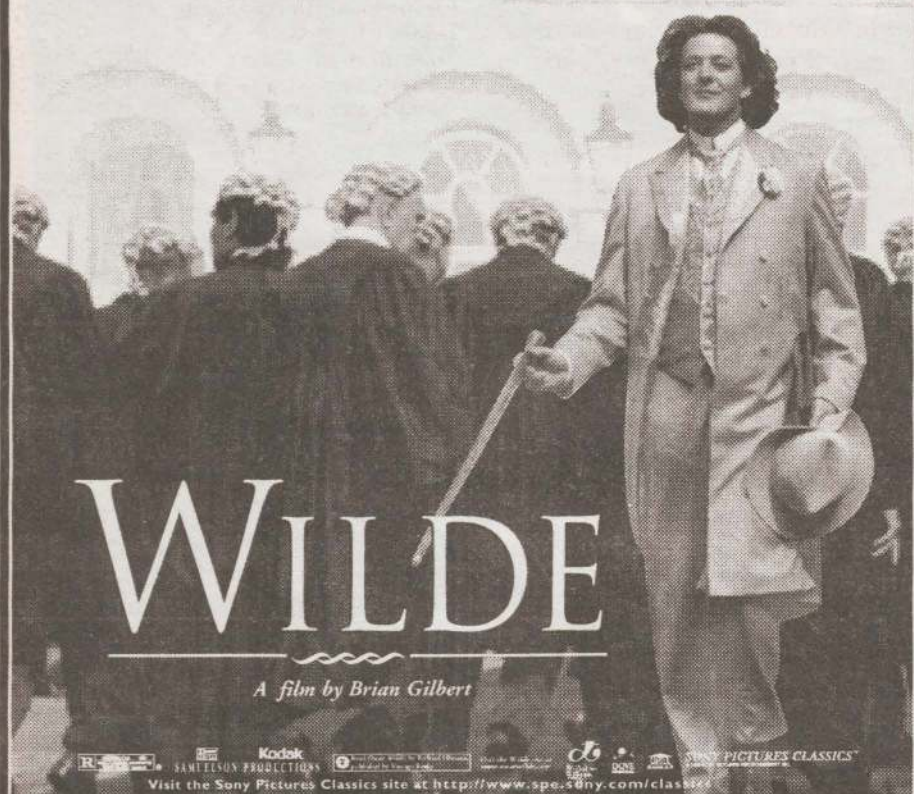
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MY QUEER LIFE WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

By Michael Thomas Ford, HeatStroke Contributor

It's official—romance is dead. The tragic event occurred at 9:36 last Tuesday night.

That was when a group of friends and I were sitting around in a bar after a reading that several of us had taken part in. Basking in the glow of post-performance relief, we were knocking back a few beers and talking about all of those important things that people talk about when they're slightly buzzed.

We had already discussed which childhood comic book heroes we'd had crushes on, what our favorite songs of the 1970's were, and the relative appeal of corduroy pants. Now it was my turn to choose a topic for debate.

"Here you go," I said after thinking for a minute. "I want to talk about flowers."

"Flowers?" said my friend Anna. "What about them?"

Truth be told, I wanted their advice. I was thinking about sending flowers to a man I had recently met and was considering asking out, but I wasn't entirely sure it was the right thing to do.

"Say you meet this guy," I theorized. "At a party or something. He seems really nice, and you have a great conversation. A couple of days later, you get flowers from him and a note saying he really enjoyed talking to you and would like to maybe have dinner or coffee or something."

"How did he get my address?" asked my friend Jackson suspiciously. "What?" I said. "I don't know.

What difference does it make? That's not the point."

"I just wouldn't want any of you giving out my address or phone number to some guy who wanted to stalk me," he said.

"Who said anything about stalking?" I said. "It's just flowers."

"I don't know," said Anna, taking a drag on her cigarette. "It sounds like too much commitment to me. I mean, I feel like I owe a guy sex if he buys me dinner. Starting with flowers would be like asking me to swallow on the first date. I'm not ready for that."

"He just wants to have dinner!" I said. "No one even mentioned sex."

"It's always about sex," said Jackson bitterly. "No one sends flowers just because he's a nice guy. He wants sex. And if he wants sex, why can't he just call me and ask to come over? Why send flowers? What's that supposed to mean, anyway?"

"It doesn't have to mean anything," I explained in exasperation. "He likes you. He wants to tell you that, and he wants to ask you to dinner. What's the big deal about flowers? They're romantic."

"It's just sort of creepy," said Anna. "You know, desperate and clutchy and all that."

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Granted, it's a well-established fact that I am the world's worst dater. But even I would be thrilled if someone sent me flowers. You know, as long as I liked him. But even if I didn't, I wouldn't turn him in to the local sex crimes unit. Apparently, my friends felt differently.

"I don't like all that flowers and

cards crap," said Jackson. "Next thing you know, he'll be calling my dad asking for my hand in marriage. I prefer your standard gay date—go to dinner and then go home and have sex all night. Say goodbye in the morning. Maybe exchange numbers if you want to do it again. That's it."

"Amen," said Anna. "But you're a straight girl," I protested. "You're supposed to love all that romantic stuff."

"No one I know does," she insisted. "That's all just a cover-up for getting you into bed. Any girl I know would be really suspicious if some guy sent her flowers. He's trying too hard. It's like not waiting a day to call someone back."

"Well, I don't believe you," I said. "There have to be some men left—and women too—who want romance. There have to be some people left who like being courted."

Anna and Jackson looked at each other and laughed cruelly.

"This is why you never go out with anyone," said Jackson. "You haven't learned the rules yet. Just screw 'em and get out. That's how it's done. If you happen to find one you want to keep around, don't blow it by sending him flowers or singing beneath his window or whatever stupid thing you have in mind. It'll just backfire. You have to play hard to get."

"You are a bitter queen," I said. "And I'm going to prove you wrong. Both of you."

The next day, I called up the local florist and sent the man I was interested in a dozen roses with a card that read, "I've enjoyed getting to know you. How about dinner on Friday?"

Then I waited. I knew he'd call. After all, since we'd met we'd spoken

several times on the phone and had great conversations. He was smart, and funny, and all of those things men generally aren't these days. Surely he would understand that flowers don't have to mean something sinister.

He did call, about an hour after the roses arrived. I was out walking the dog, and came home to find the message light blinking.

"Hi," said his voice on my machine. "Thanks so much for the flowers. They're really, um, nice. Look, about Friday. I guess I should have explained that I'm, um, not really ready to date anyone seriously."

It went on, but we needn't get into the grisly details. Suffice it to say, it was not a joyous moment and it involved the phrase "still be friends."

That Friday, instead of going out with my would-be beau, I went out with Anna and Jackson.

"You win," I said as soon as we sat down. I told them what had happened.

"See," said Anna jadedly when I was finished. "It never works. You scared him."

"You should have just sent him e-mail saying you wanted to savage him if it was convenient," suggested Jackson. "That's more to the point."

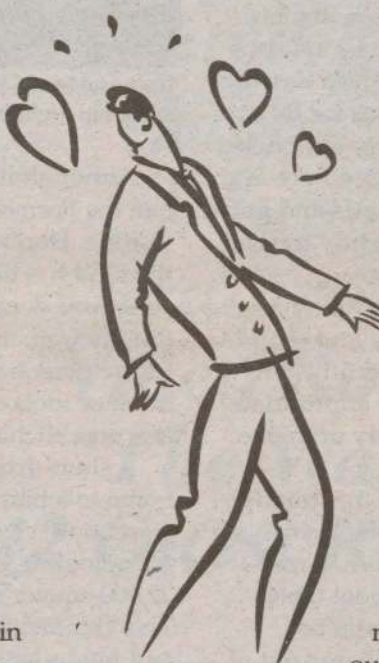
Before I could argue, the waitress appeared at our table, interrupting our discussion. "Here you go," she said, setting down a votive candle. "For my favorite customers."

She smiled at us and left. As she walked away, I picked up the candle.

"And just what's this supposed to mean?" I said, blowing it out. "I bet she just wants a bigger tip"

"See," said Anna, patting me on the back. "Now you're catching on."

Michael Thomas Ford is currently on a reading tour for his book *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me & Other Trials from My Queer Life*. He welcomes e-mail at Shopiltee@aol.com



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Out of Town

The LA Bar Scene

By Andrew Collins, HeatStroke Contributor

No region in the United States contains more queer bars than Los Angeles, although most visitors concentrate their partying on compact but tried-and-true West Hollywood, along Santa Monica Boulevard, between Robertson and La Cienega.

This bustling stretch, nicknamed Boys' Town, is the glitzy heart of gay LA—in addition to clubs, you'll find countless shops, gyms, and eateries catering to a predominantly gay and more-often-than-not buffed and bronzed clientele.

Depending on your habits, one recent development in California law is worth noting. As of January 1, 1998, all bars are non-smoking, so be sure to put your butts out before walking to any of these establishments.

West Hollywood is less about mega-size warehouse discos and more about midsize manageable clubs, although the adjoining Axis and Love Lounge clubs satisfy the hi-NRG set with several bars and dance spaces on different floors, each offering nightly changing music themes.

Within walking distance are such mainstays as Mother Lode, a down-to-earth cruise bar famous for its Sunday beer blasts; newly remodeled Rage, whose pulsing dance floor is a must-do among gym clones and guppies; Micky's, Rage's slightly trashier but otherwise similar cousin; Revolver, LA's definitive pretty-boy bar—redolent of cologne and sculpting gel; and the more recently christened Firehouse, a loud, appropriately red disco with a variety of theme nights.

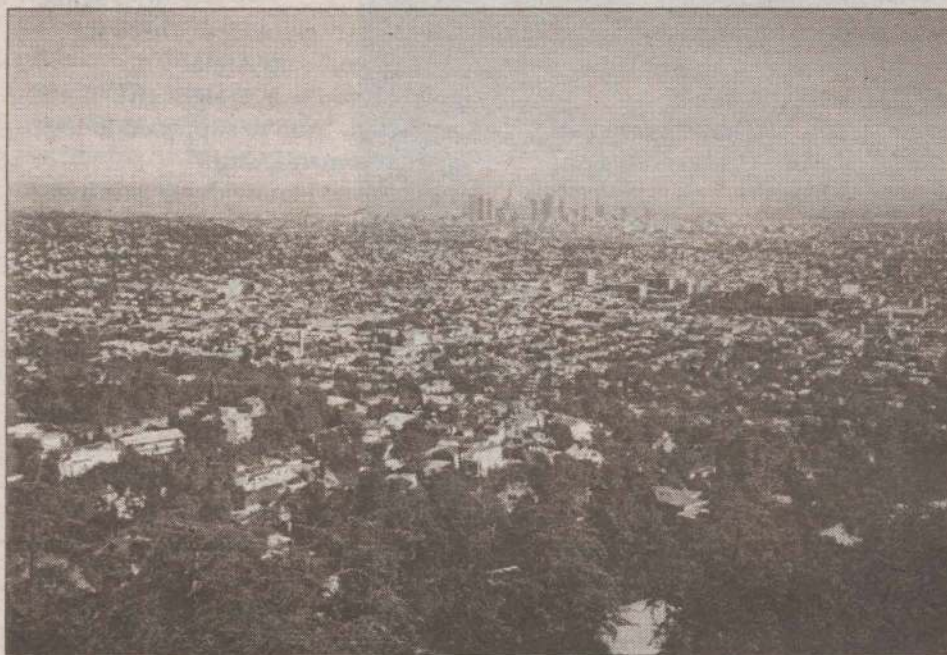
At the eastern end of this trendy strip is the Palms, a pubby lesbian bar with ample mingling room, a rear section brimming with pool tables, and off that a relaxing patio bar.

If you get more of a charge out of caffeine than booze and dance music, consider a pair of legendary West Hollywood coffeehouses as big on the social circuit as any of the above-mentioned clubs: the Abbey, whose cheerful courtyard is filled with terracotta statues and anchored by a gaudy fountain of cast-iron flamingos, and dyke-popular Little Frida's, a spacious haunt with Frida Kahlo reproductions on the walls—part of Ellen's "Coming Out" episode was set here.

The eastern half of West Hollywood is characterized less by chic see-and-be-seen bars and more by laid-back neighborhood joints. There are three standouts, however.

Club 7969 is a rollicking venue that, depending on the night, offers anything from unforgettable drag revues to lesbian strip shows.

The leather-and-Levi's-oriented Spike draws big crowds, especially on weekends after 2 AM, when it's open til 4.



The neighborhoods of Los Feliz and Silver Lake, as viewed from Griffith Park, offer a funky hip nightlife alternative to the traditional gay clubbing mecca of West Hollywood.

Although it's primarily a straight bar, the Formosa Cafe is also worth visiting. Don't come here for dinner; the food has been inedible for the past three decades. Do go after 11 PM, though, to see Hollywood's future potential starlets and brooding matinee idols dishing, posing, gossiping, and bitching.

A short drive east, Hollywood is home to a pair of LA's best-known warehouse clubs. Arena/Circus Disco are adjoining clubs set inside a 22,000-square-foot former ice factory. This complex draws a racially mixed and libido-laden crowd and has one of the best sound systems and laser shows in the city.

On Saturday nights, check out Probe (it's mostly straight the rest of the week), a serious dancing and partying scene.

Still east of Hollywood is the city's original gay ghetto, Silver Lake. The funky, sometimes frumpy, bars in this part of town have long cultivated a following among Latinos and leather aficionados, but the scene has grown lately to include grungers, genXers,

artists, and others who shun WeHo's alleged plasticity.

There are a few major players in the Silver Lake bar scene. Head to the delightfully hip but unpretentious Cobalt Cantina, an above-average Tex-Mex restaurant with a slick jam-packed cocktail lounge (there's an equally queer and popular branch in West Hollywood).

The dangerous-looking relentlessly butch Cuff's is always a trip—the only visible decor in this dark one-

Apache Territory is a convivial disco with a major pick-up scene; it attracts a genuinely friendly mix of Valley boys too lazy to wander over the hills for West Hollywood thrills.

Escapades is the most lesbian-popular of Valley hangouts, although men are also quite welcome.

The Lodge is the quintessential mixed-ages workingman's bar, and Oasis is as cozy and friendly a gay piano bar as you'll find in Southern California.

The rest of LA and its neighboring counties offer countless more opportunities for club-hopping. There's little socializing to be found in or anywhere near downtown, with the exception of Catch One, an immense dance club that draws a young racially diverse crowd of men and women, gay and straight, til 3 AM most nights, and til 4 on Fridays and Saturdays.

If you head outside the city, up to Pasadena and through the San Gabriel Valley, deep into Orange County and the so-called Inland Empire, and down along the coast through Redondo Beach and Long Beach, you'll come across dozens of hangouts, nearly all of them drawing a fair mix of women and men, and catering to all classes and tastes. Out here, the image-consciousness so prevalent in West Hollywood is all but absent, but so complain many detractors, is LA's inimitable sense of style.

There is perhaps just one bar off the beaten track that truly merits exploration, whether you're a gay man or a lesbian, a tourist passing through or a longtime area resident, and that's Roosterfish, in Venice Beach.

Only a patch of glass brick tempers this cement building's frighteningly bright turquoise paint job. Inside is a small characterful dive with Tiffany-style lamps, a linoleum floor, bits of memorabilia, and a large patio out back.

By day the crowd is local; at night—especially on weekends—Metallica fans, Barbra devotees, and poetry slammers all squeeze in for a little peace, love, and understanding. It is a gay bar that completely captures the quirky and unpredictable essence of Los Angeles.

Andrew Collins recently authored the greatly expanded second edition of *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*, as well as six gay guides covering the West Coast, New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam. He can be reached care of HeatStroke or at gayfodors@aol.com

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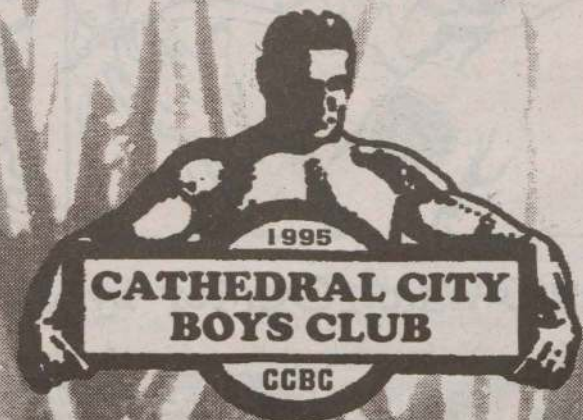
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Dear Cowboy,
My 30th birthday is in three weeks and I am having panic attacks over it. I guess it is because I am not really happy in my job, I am still single and I have no prospects.
Yesterday I woke up and when I started thinking about how old I'm going to be this month I couldn't even get out of bed for three hours. Is this normal?
Signed, Happier as a Youngun

Dear Youngun,
It's normal to assess your life around any birthday and even the most accomplished people can get a little low around those decade mark-

ers, wondering if they shouldn't be doing more. But "panic attacks" and not getting your butt out of the bunk sound like serious problems that have little to do with your age.
Use the service directory above my column to hitch yourself up to a pro who can counsel you, or contact one of the service agencies listed in this paper for a referral.
You need to stop sulking and realize there are fresh prospects for relationships and better jobs all around you. But you gotta get up, get out there and be open to meeting whatever comes down the trail.

Dear Cowboy,
Where are all the Mexican guys who are looking for handsome, successful white guys like me? I am 34 and really get turned on by Hispanic men, but it seems like all the Hispanic guys I see are only interested in other guys just like them.
I tried going to gay Mexican bars and I got a lot of attitude.
Is there a way I can dress or act so people will be able to tell what kind of guys I like without judging me by how I look on the outside?
Signed, Horny Gringo

Dear Gringo,
To say that all Hispanic guys are only interested in other guys like them is plain wrong. There are plenty of *hombres* all over the Southwest who are into paler cowboys like yourself.

Maybe what you perceived as a judgmental attitude was shyness, or even curious interest. Get back out there and relax. Attend Mexican-
Yesterday I woke up and when I started thinking about how old I'm going to be this month I couldn't even get out of bed for three hours. Is this normal?

theme performances and art shows, join a club. The best way you can dress and act is the way you do every day, so be yourself without worrying about how you're being judged.

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Phoenix 255-3791
- 64. AZ Science Center
600 E. Washington
Phoenix 716-2000
- 65. AZ State Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix 542-4675

- 66. ASU Art Museum
Nelson Fine Arts Center
Mill Ave. & 10th Street
Tempe 965-2787
- 67. ASU Gammage Center
Apache & Mill Ave.
Tempe 965-3434

- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky
Pavillion
2121 N. 83rd Ave.
Phoenix 254-7499

- 69. Celebrity Theater
440 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix 267-9373

- 70. Heard Museum
22 E. Monte Vista
Phoenix 252-8848

- 71. Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
Phoenix 254-7399

- 72. Orpheum Theatre
203 W. Adams
Phoenix 262-7272

- 73. Phoenix Art Museum
1624 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 257-1222

- 74. Phoenix Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 262-4636

- 75. Phoenix Civic Plaza
225 E. Adams St.
Phoenix 262-6225

- 76. Phoenix Symphony Hall
225 E. Adams
Phoenix 262-6225

- 77. Phoenix Museum of History
105 N. 5th Street
Phoenix 253-2734

- 78. Phoenix Theatre
100 E. McDowell
Phoenix 254-2151

- 79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural
Theatre
909 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix 241-1821

- 80. Union Hall
512 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 253-7100

O**utdoors**

- 81. Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 941-1217

- 82. Margaret T. Hance Park
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 534-2406

- 83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 262-6696

- 84. Papago Park
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 256-3220

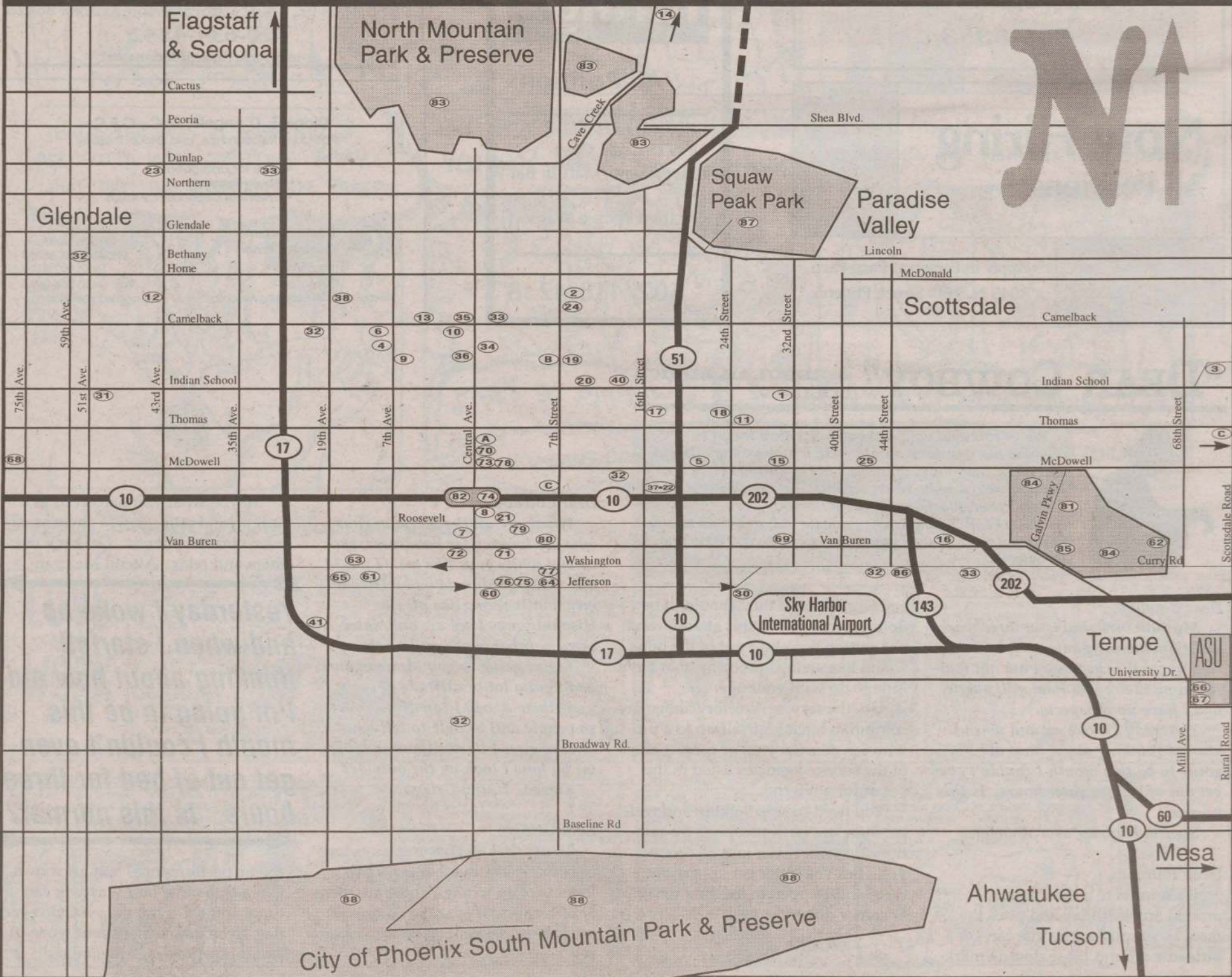
- 85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 273-1431

- 86. Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington
Phoenix 495-0900

- 87. Squaw Peak Park
2701 E. SquawPeak Dr
Phoenix 262-6696

- 88. South Mountain Park
10919 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix 495-0222

Finding it in Phoenix



Directory of Community Services

Aids Services

AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix, AZ 85064 234-6143

AIDS Project Arizona
111 E. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85012 265-2437

A Place Called Home
3431 W. Thunderbird #13-403
Phoenix, AZ 85023 942-1572

Arizona AIDS Information Line
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
Phoenix, AZ 85013 234-2752

AZ AIDS Services for the Deaf
111 E. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85012 265-9953

Aunt Rita's Foundation
5501 N. 7th Ave #215
Phoenix, AZ 85013 279-0716

Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593

HIV Care Directions
1366 E. Thomas #105
Phoenix, AZ 85014 264-2273

Indian Community Health Serv.
1427 N. 3rd St. #100
Phoenix, AZ 85004 254-0456

Joshua Tree Feeding Program
P.O. Box 7056
Phoenix, AZ 85011 264-0223

MALTA Center
3033A N. 7th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85013 212-0222

Maricopa County Health Dept.
1825 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix, AZ 85006 506-6900

Planned Parenthood
5651 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85016 277-7526

Phx. Body Positive
4021 N. 30th St. #2
Phoenix, AZ 85016 955-4673

Phx. Shanti Group
2020 W. Indian School Rd. #53
Phoenix, AZ 85015 279-0008

Terros, Inc.
320 E. Virginia Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004 234-8900

Volunteers in Direct Aid
P.O. Box 40476
Phoenix, AZ 85067 279-8432

Wellness Center
1840 W. Maryland, Suite E
Phoenix, AZ 85016 864-0710

Political Action & Education

American Civil Liberties Union
P.O. Box 17148
Phoenix, AZ 85011 650-1967

Arizona Central Pride
P.O. Box 26139
Tempe, AZ 85285 279-1771

Arizona Human Rights Fund
P.O. Box 25044
Phoenix, AZ 85002 530-1660

Arizonans for Fairness
P.O. Box 34766
Phoenix, AZ 85067 265-7283

AZ Democratic Party
2005 N. Central #180
Phoenix, AZ 85004 257-9136

Feminist Lesbian Activist Coalition
P.O. Box 26031
Tempe, AZ 85285 966-4521

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project
P.O. Box 60881
Phoenix, AZ 85082 351-3080

Log Cabin Republicans
P.O. Box 60994
Phoenix, AZ 85082 428-3596

Social & Support Groups

Alpha Zeta—Crossdressers Supp A Rose—Transgender Support
PO Box 1738
Tempe, AZ 85280 488-0959

APEX-AZ Power Exchange
apex@xroads.com 415-1123

Arizona 2-somes 678-4568

Arizona Nude Dudes
P.O. Box 32776
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Bears of the Arizona Desert
4133 E. Campbell Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85018 345-8755

Copperstate Leathersmen
P.O. Box 40472
Phoenix, AZ 85067

Delta Lambda Phi - Phoenix
903 S. Rural Rd., Suite 101-317
Tempe, AZ 85281 227-3370

Desert Adventures
P.O. Box 2008
Phoenix, AZ 85001 266-2267

Entre Nosotros
546 E. Osborn, #22
Phoenix 85012 285-0970

Girth and Mirth of AZ
P.O. Box 16605
Phoenix, AZ 85011 655-8229

The Leatherlords 254-9651

Lesbian & Gay Alanon
2940 E. Thomas
Phoenix, AZ 85016 581-8850

Lesbian Resource Project (LRP)
PO Box 1917
Tempe, AZ 85280 266-5542

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
P.O. Box 37525
Phoenix, AZ 85069 843-1404

The Phoenix Bears
PO Box 9627
Tempe, AZ 85068 216-8000

Project LifeGuard
Project Q
TRIBE
4700 N. Central, #204
Phoenix, AZ 85012 266-7233

Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center and Youth Services 265-7283
Lesbian & Gay Community Switchboard 234-2752
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
PO Box 33367
Phoenix, AZ 95067-3367

Womyn 2 Womyn Connection
singles & couples 941-3513

Professional Organizations

Camelback Business & Professional Association
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix, AZ 85001 225-8444

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Mormons)
P.O. Box 26601
Tempe, AZ 85285

Asbury United Methodist Church
1601W Indian School
Phoenix, AZ 85015 279-2369

AVIV of Arizona
4704 E. Paradise Village Pkwy N. #314
Phoenix, AZ 85032 996-8622

Casa De Cristo
1029 E. Turney
Phoenix, AZ 85014 265-2831

Community Church of Hope
4400 N. Central
Phoenix, AZ 85014 234-2180

Dignity and Integrity
P.O. Box 60953
Phoenix, AZ 85082 222-8664

Gentle Shepherd MCC-285-9020

Goddess Womyn's Network
P.O. Box 17312
Phoenix, AZ 85011 266-4111

Healing Waters Ministries
225 W. University, 105
Tempe, AZ 85281 894-8681

Lutherans Concerned
P.O. Box 7519
Phoenix, AZ 85011 870-3611

Presbyterians for Lesbians & Gays
P.O. Box 61162
Phoenix, AZ 85082 275-0506

Southwest Miracles Center
3644 E. McDowell
Phoenix, AZ 85008 244-9001

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Paradise Valley, AZ 85283 840-8400

Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch.
1700 W. Warner Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85224 899-4249

Western Orthodox Catholic Church
241-9776 pasisozi@cris.com

Music, Sports & Hobbies

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix, AZ 85011 265-0618

Arizona Lambda Yacht Club
951-9481

Cactus Cities Softball League
PO Box 45101
Phoenix, AZ 85064 241-9224

Charlie's Renegades
P.O. Box 17602
Phoenix, AZ 85011 277-9142

Desert Adventures
PO Box 2008
Phoenix, AZ 85001 266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 34615
Phoenix, AZ 85067 248-0048

Gay League Association of Darts
P.O. Box 63251
Phoenix, AZ 85082

Grand Canyon Men's Chorale
P.O. Box 16462
Phoenix, AZ 85011 340-7640

Lambda Car Club
P.O. Box 36211
Phoenix, AZ 85067 409-3160

Our Gang Bowling League
2644 E. Birchwood
Mesa, AZ 85204 969-4629

Spartan Wrestling Club-340-8070
e-mail: mattbims@aol.com

Sunburst Squares
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85013 265-0224

Team Arizona
P.O. Box 36431
Phoenix, AZ 85067 464-1461

Valley of the Sun Comm'ty Band
Jayne: 947-0907; Terry: 954-9244

Q Puzzle

"A Sugar Plum Fairy?"

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14							15					16		
17							18					19		
20							21					22		
23				24	25					26			27	28
	29		30					31	32	33				
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37	38	39						40				41	42	
43												44		
46				47	48							49		
52												53		54
														55
				56			57	58	59				60	
61	62											64	65	
66												68		
69												70		
												71		

ACROSS

- 1 Not in class
- 7 Doofus
- 11 Many PFLAG members, briefly
- 14 Desert plant
- 15 Word before John or Abby
- 16 ___ de France
- 17 Composer widely believed to have been gay
- 19 Kinsey ___ (homosexual exclusively)

DOWN

- 20 Island guitars
- 21 Young girls
- 23 *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* won one in 1955 (abbr.)
- 24 Attila was one
- 26 Hot ___ buns
- 29 Ballet by 17-Across
- 34 "My country, ___ of thee..."
- 35 ___ loss for words

- 36 Competed in a marathon
- 37 Seasonal favorite by 17-Across
- 43 Birds ___ feather
- 44 Palimony pioneer Marvin
- 45 Pince-___ (gripping glasses)
- 46 Fantasy overture by 17-Across
- 52 In accordance with
- 53 Actress Thurman
- 54 They precede xis
- 56 Howard Ashman's 1992 animated musical
- 60 Prefix with culture
- 61 Little white lie
- 63 "March of the ___" (tune from 37-Across)
- 66 Simon & Garfunkel's "I ___ Rock"
- 67 Sign of the future
- 68 Tons
- 69 Like 10% of all people, supposedly
- 70 Observe the Sabbath
- 71 Warm and snug

DOWN

- 1 "Silence = Death" org.
- 2 Thurston Howell III portrayer Jim
- 3 *Judgement at Nuremberg* Oscar-winner Maximilian
- 4 Airport approximations, briefly
- 5 *Rapa ___* (1994 saga)
- 6 "For shame!"
- 7 Early 5th-century date
- 8 Not as much
- 9 Adult acorns
- 10 Wizard of Oz "I'm Melting" prop
- 11 Gay legislator Tim Van Zandt's state
- 12 He thrilled 'em in Manila
- 13 Cruiser's quest
- 18 Prefix with potent or sexual
- 22 The Gay '90s, for one
- 24 Jim Hormel, vis-a-vis Spam
- 25 East Orange, New Jersey college
- 27 Height, weight, or eye color
- 28 "Auld Lang ___"
- 30 Atlanta gay mag

- 31 *Like a Freshmen* centerfold, e.g.
- 32 Big name in the telephone bus.
- 33 Bailey's circus partner
- 37 *Sleepless in Seattle* director Ephron
- 38 Ships piloted by ETs
- 39 Saint Petersburg lies on it
- 40 100 yrs.
- 41 Ward of *Sisters*
- 42 Israeli submachine gun
- 47 Shocking swimmer
- 48 Patrick Henry or Harvey Milk
- 49 Wife and sister of Jupiter
- 50 Marx collaborator Friedrich
- 51 Castle tower
- 55 Taunting epithet directed at many gay schoolboys
- 57 Feature of St. Peter's
- 58 Becomes a blonde
- 59 "___ that special!"
- 60 Verdi opera
- 61 Cigarette, in Soho
- 62 "___ little teapot..."
- 64 Sodom escapee
- 65 "Da ___ Ron Ron" (Shaun Cassidy hit)

C	D	C		S	C	A	L	E	S		A	B	C	S
R	A	H		A	L	L	O	U	T		S	L	A	P
A	R	E		Y	O	U	S	U	R	E	T	U	N	A
B	R	E	A							A	R	N	I	E
S	O	S	P	A	D		P	I	N	E		E	R	R
	W	E	S	T	I	L	L	L	O	V	E	Y	O	U
							N	A	D	A		P	E	L
							I	T	S	O	N	L	Y	A
							O	K	A	Y		O	T	T
							W	E	K	N	E	W	A	L
							N	A	E	L	I	R	A	S
										A	T	O	L	L
							L	U	B	E	B	E	S	A
							I	S	O	N	U	N	I	T
							L	E	W	D	R	E	N	E

Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle: "Coming Out Comebacks"

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H O R R O R S S C O R P E S

By Deane Jaye, HeatStroke contributor

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The vision you have for yourself and where you'd like to be right now may seem far beyond your reach, but it's closer than you think. This is an excellent time to sit down and map out a plan—yes, okay. You hate maps. But this is different. Think of it as your own personal map, one you don't have to fold back up in any particular way. Be careful getting advice through the end of the month; one who appears both wise and serious may have hidden motives.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Express yourself, respect yourself, Madonna used to say, before she got all motherly & frozen and became the new queen of techno. Follow that Madame of self-expression's clever counsel. Pretend you're a self-assured Leo-yourself for a week, sometime around the 9th. Shout, "Look at me" and then give them something worth seeing. It might feel like time to give up and move on toward the end of the month but there are children to consider.

Leo (July 21-August 20)

There's a teensy bit of truth in what you've worked to convince yourself (not to mention the family) was just for show. Perhaps it's time to go back to the beginning and plan your lies a little better. Or give up lying altogether. A Sagittarian may have a message to share on or near the 17th that will breed good will and enrich your humor. Take care of your skin in the next two weeks. A change in your outward appearance—albeit a temporary one—is well advised.

Virgo (August 21-September 20)

You are just finishing a major cycle of work or achievement and that certainly calls for celebration. Another difficult cycle will shortly begin, so take the time you need now to regroup and relax. There are things in the corners of your life that seem unsettled and the next two weeks could point you toward solutions to those. Or, you could end up cutting those corners right off. Don't do anything drastic on an empty stomach, especially if a Scorpio is involved.

Libra (September 21-October 20)

Gitchee-gitchee-goo! You are being stimulated in new and exciting ways but be careful sharing your newfound knowledge regarding that which tickles your fancy. You tend to attract people who know right off how to make you both laugh and squirm, so it might be wise to practice discretion for the time being. Your appetite for new things will extend into the kitchen, so be open to new dining pleasures as well, particularly after the 12th.

Scorpio (October 21-November 20)

Dirty clothes on the floor, dishes in the sink, an inch of dust on the TV screen and no one to share it all with? Hmm...wonder why... Maybe it's time to re-evaluate the balance between chaos and order. And see if you can sort your full-time sex drive from your part-time need for companionship while your at it. Pressing problems later in the month could be financial ones, so work to achieve a semblance of order now, while there's still time.

Sagittarius (November 21-December 20)

You want to say and do whatever is on your mind, just like the celebrities get to do on *Politically Incorrect*. Trouble is, when you put forth your boldest and strangest opinions nobody thinks you really mean them. Get under the covers with a good book and a flashlight the week of the 14th and think about what you want to say ahead of time. A casual soiree later in the month may offer you a chance to renew your bonds with an old acquaintance.

Capricorn (December 21-January 20)

Your considerable powers of persuasion are operating at full throttle for the time being. Consequently, you've picked up more than your usual share of followers and admirers in recent weeks. Don't let them down too harshly when the time comes—you should know by now that what begins as blind admiration often leads to fierce loyalty further down the line. Look for an outdoor experience later in the month to prove especially revealing.

Aquarius (January 21-February 20)

You thought you were doing your job just like everybody else and then all of a sudden—BAM! Busted! Why does it seem as though you water-bearers are always among the unfortunate few that end up getting caught? You'll have plenty of time to think about that after the 7th, when things slow to a crawl in every area of your existence for a week or more. The spirit of the summery season will have you up and moving more carefully afterwards.

Pisces (February 21-March 20)

Diamonds and pearls and silver and gold may beckon in strange ways—and in strange places—for the next couple of weeks. You'll likely find yourself tempted to follow their gleam. You do so like to tell yourself that there's nothing spiritual in the material, but this might be a chance to explore your greedier side. There's no harm in looking, anyway. Don't be too surprised if people are reluctant to give you advice around the 15th.

Aries (March 21-April 20)

Now everyone else seems to be tripping and you're the one they are coming to for advisement. You don't feel very generous right now and that's okay—you were starting to spread yourself a bit thin, anyway. The recreation you seek to improve your mental state is still an option, but be careful not to overdo over the next two weekends. A muscle strain or bruised ego could result from rough play—it's hard to say whether your body or mind will be more greatly affected.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Make time for solitude if you have to. You've been making time for everything and everyone else, so why not? Approval from loved ones seemed more important last month than it does right now so take any changes one step at a time and be prepared for a certain degree of fallout, especially after the 10th. Travel should be put on hold, but don't wait too long to make your plans or the toes you step on may be your own.

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HEALTH

Glaad Alert

McNally Play will Run as Scheduled

Last week, a number of media outlets, including *Daily Variety* and *New York's Daily News*, *New York Post* and *New York Times*, reported that the Manhattan Theatre Club (MTC) had canceled its plans for a fall/winter production of *Corpus Christi*, a new play by three-time Tony Award-winning playwright Terrence McNally.

A former GLAAD Media Award-winner, McNally has penned theatrical successes such as *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Master Class*.

But at a press conference held in New York City on May 28, the MTC announced its decision to reinstate the play.

MTC Artistic Director Lynne Meadow and Executive Producer Barry Grove said in a prepared statement, "After information about the play appeared prematurely in the press, we received numerous death threats to Mr. McNally, and finally, a threat to exterminate the author, the staff, and our audiences, and 'burn the building to the ground.' We acted promptly and quickly to protect everyone involved, and we announced that we could not proceed responsibly to produce the play at this time. Within the last 24 hours, we have been in contact with New York City Police...which have been overwhelmingly supportive in stepping in to aid our endeavors and to give us the reasonable assurances we need to produce this play responsibly and safely."

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights complained that "the work 'featured a Christ-like character who has sex with the Apostoles' [sic.] and demanding a halt to public funding for the theatre."

The MTC described McNally's latest work by saying: "From modern day Corpus Christi, Texas, to ancient Jerusalem, we follow a young gay man named Joshua on his spiritual journey, and get to know the twelve disciples who choose to follow him. In this World Premiere, Terrence McNally gives us his own unique view of 'the greatest story ever told.'"

Upon learning of the decision to run the play as scheduled, Catholic League Communications Director Rick Hinshaw told the *Daily News*, "We will now contact every member of Congress and urge them to examine whether arts funding should go to a theater which would produce this kind of offensive, anti-religious material."

While most of the media coverage has been in the form of small news items, the *New York Times'* attention to this issue has been extensive. Its coverage has included two articles appearing on the cover of its Arts section for two consecutive days, an insightful editorial, and on Friday May 29, a front page story.

Please thank the MTC for renewing its plans to stage the production and tell the *New York Times* that you appreciate the deserved attention it gave this issue. Contact:

• Bill Keller, Managing Editor, *New York Times*, 229 West 43rd St., NY, NY 10036-3959, fax: 212.556.3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com (include phone

number when sending e-mails)

• Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director, and Barry Grove, Executive Producer, Manhattan Theatre Club, 311 West 43rd St., 8th Floor, NY, NY 10036

Wall Street Journal calls Hormel Controversy "Intolerance"

In its May 21 "Politics and People" section, the *Wall Street Journal* discusses the blatant discrimination facing James Hormel, openly gay ambassadorial nominee for Luxembourg.

His appointment "is languishing as Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, pandering to the religious right, refuses to let it come to a vote in the full Senate. The Christian right engages in all manner of distortion to disguise the reason they oppose [him]: He is openly gay," writer Albert R. Hunt says.

"The real significance of the confirmation struggle is what it says about the religious right, its clout with the Republican party and why the intolerance that has become its hallmark turns off many Americans." He continues, "Overreaching and outright fabrication are ubiquitous in the ugly fight against Mr. Hormel."

Hunt points to multiple examples of inflammatory deception used by religious political extremist groups to try to stop the appointment. He adds that numerous conservative senators and Reagan Administration Secretary of State George Schultz have endorsed the appointment.

"But several conservative senators, including James Inhofe (R-Okla)—who, incredibly, has likened Mr. Hormel to racist David Duke—are blocking even a vote on the nomination. They are doing the bidding of the conservative Christian organizations. Trent Lott figur[es] this is an easy bone to throw to the religious right. This may work. It matters little who is ambassador to Luxembourg. But what does matter and what is being revealed here is the intolerance of organization that too often call the tune in the Republican Party."

Please let the *Wall Street Journal* know that this frank and insightful commentary on religious political extremist groups is appreciated. Contact: Paul Steiger, Managing Editor, *Wall Street Journal*, 200 Liberty St., NY, NY 10281-1003, fax:

212.416.2658 (until 4pm EST), e-mail: letter.editor@edit.wsj.com

Sweeps Month Sleaze Criticism Continues in Detroit

The May 28 *Detroit Free Press* features an article which exposes the sensationalism of a recent WDIV-TV news three-part sweeps period hidden camera "exposee" of public sex between men.

Interviewing spokespeople for the news station and critics of the story, *Free Press* staff reporter John Smyntek notes, "The reports raised several issues worth examining in the broadcasts' aftermath."

The WDIV story format used the a hidden camera placed in rest rooms with a reporter or camera man used as a decoy to encourage illicit sexual activity. Once again, the justification of this story's "newsworthiness" was the protection of children.

Nothing really distinguished the sweeps month programming from the other two dozen or so done during February and May sweeps by local television news stations nationwide.

*Detroit Free Press'*s Smyntek looks at the story, issue by issue.

WDIV News Director Deborah Collura denies it was related to sweeps. "But," Smyntek writes, "Keith Griffith, a San Francisco gay activist, says: 'About 20 TV stations' across the country did this same story, all during sweeps. 'Do they think the public is stupid?'"

On the issue of privacy rights, Smyntek notes that Collura assured him that all hidden camera footage has since been erased, "but Lauren Bernstein of the Los Angeles-based Privacy Forum was wary. 'It doesn't seem completely appropriate to create tapes like that [in the first place]. You might have cameramen chuckling over the photos,' or saving them for private use unbeknownst to station management. '[The people in the those rest rooms] should have a reasonable expectation of privacy...One cannot help but view this as exploitative of innocent people.'"

Please commend the *Detroit Free Press* for examining the issue of some journalistic standards being sacrificed for the sake of sweeps month ratings at the cost of the lesbian and gay community. Contact: Robert McGruder, Managing Editor, *Detroit Free Press*, 321 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226-2706, fax: 313.222.5981

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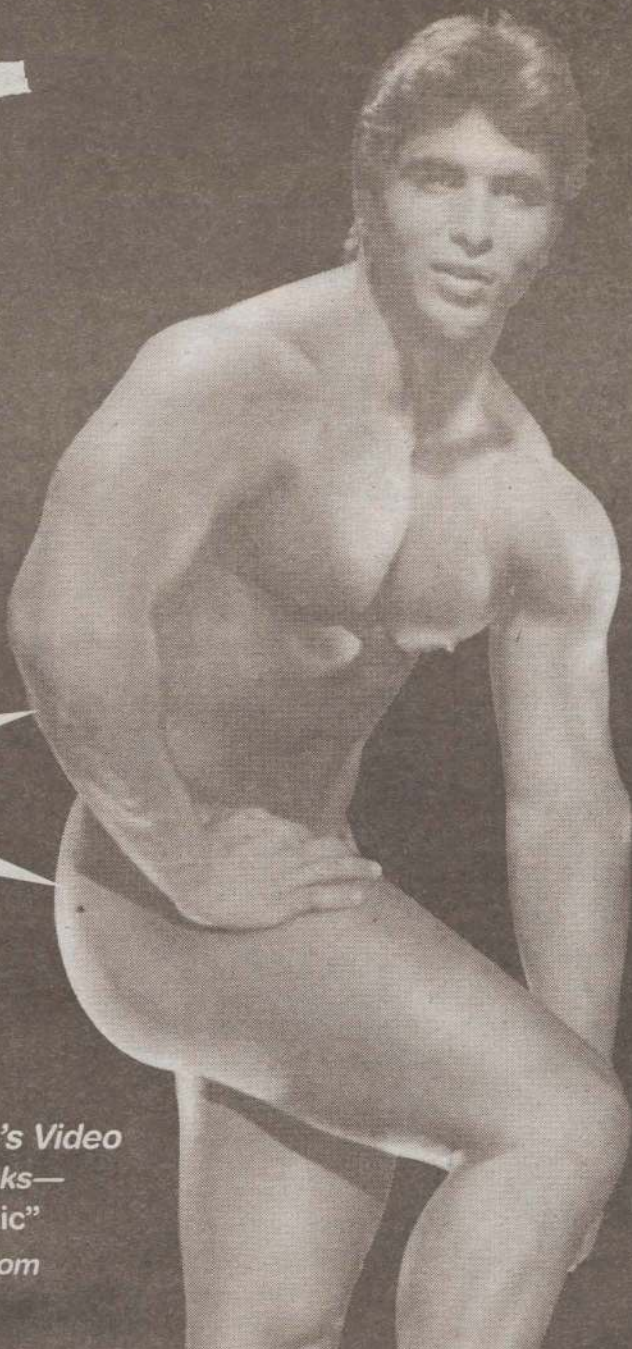
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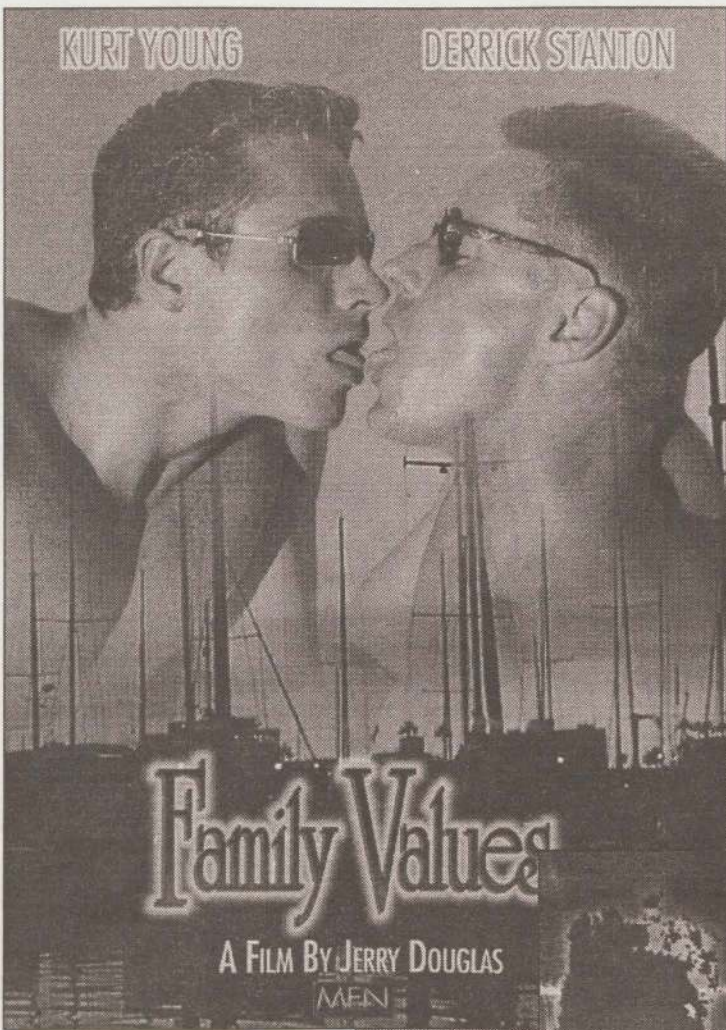
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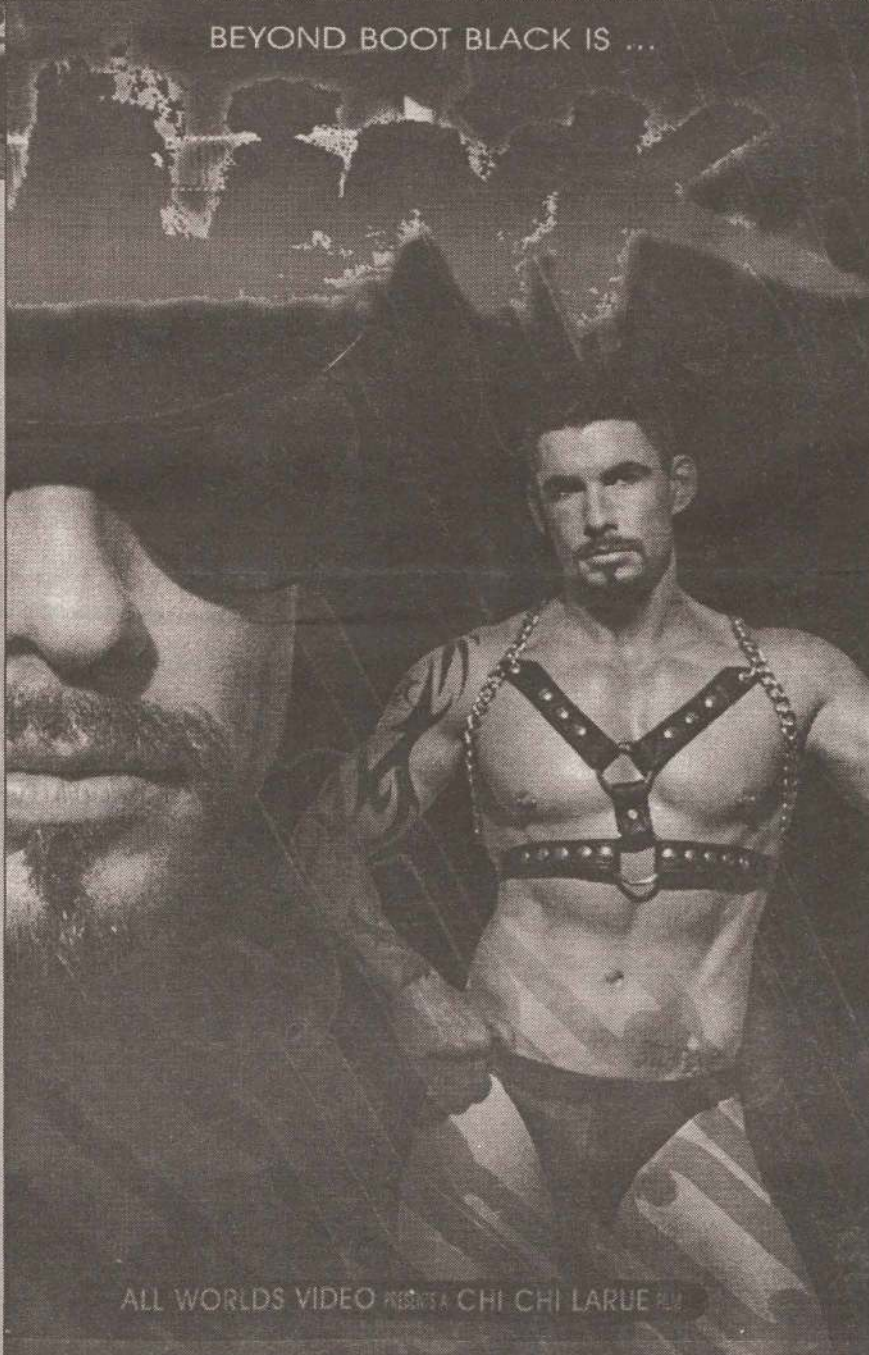
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Our customers are number one, and they keep coming back for more!
 Open 24 hours, seven days a week



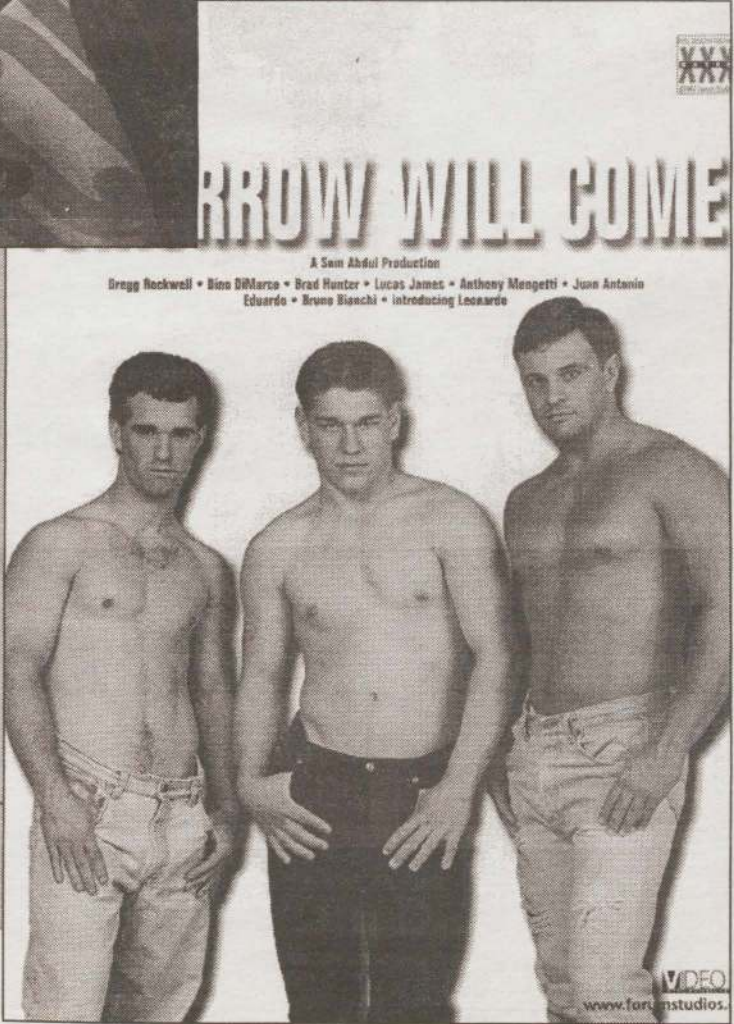
Visit our new
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 for
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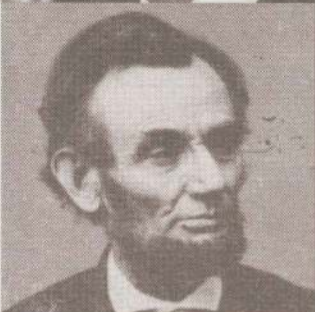
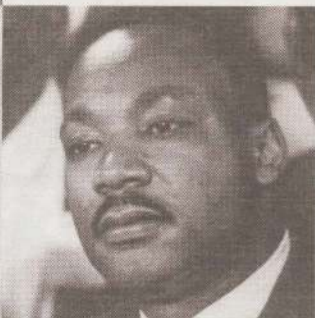
BOOK CELLAR
 Now has 3
 non-smoking theatres:

- 1838 Grand Avenue
- 3420 S. Central Avenue
- 4029 E. Washington

BOOK CELLAR

Theatre Locations	Other Locations
• 4029 E. Washington	• 2103 W. Camelback Road
• 1838 Grand Avenue	• 402 W. Hatcher
• 3420 S. Central Avenue	• 1421 E. McDowell
	• 6527 N. 59th Avenue





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Please attend the 1998 Arizona Human Rights Fund Awards Dinner
Saturday, June 13, 1998 at the Arizona Biltmore

Award recipients:

US West
The Honorable Sheila James Kuehl
Parents And Friends of Gays And Lesbians (PFLAG)
William Orovan, Echo Magazine
Marc Kellenberger

Please call 602.650.0900 for more information